NIAGARA COLLEGE
of Applied Arts and Technology
WELLAND CAMPUS
LEARNING
RESOURCE CENTRE

First Edition

Vol. 24, No. 15 Friday, April 8, 1994 20 pages

Niagara College Athletic Banquet winners

See page 12 and 13

Norm MacNiel tuning up college radio station

See page 15

Tuition increases upset students

By PHILIP JUNEK
Staff Writer

An extra $92 won't cause many Niagara College students to quit school, say a number of college students.

However, that doesn't mean they like the fact the provincial government recently announced a 10 per cent tuition increase for September. The 10 per cent hike equals about $92 more for tuition next year.

In making the tuition-increase announcement, Ontario Education and Training Minister David Cooke said the hike was aimed at encouraging enrolment growth and protecting the quality of post-secondary programs.

"Post-secondary education is becoming increasingly important for people to succeed in the workforce," Cooke said in a press release. "But enrolment is not keeping pace with the demand, the reason we're increasing tuition fees is to create more spaces for students and to maintain quality programs."

'Post-secondary education is becoming increasingly important for people to succeed in the workforce'

David Cooke

However, not all Niagara College students agree with Cooke's comments.

"I'm not impressed with it. I have to pay for my own schooling," said Natalie Jasmine, a first-year Human Relations program student.

"I don't see how they (the provincial government) expect everyone to pay for it," said Lisa Mckewan, a first-year General College program student. "I think they are just discouraging people from coming back the following year."

Mckewan said $92 is not that much money, "but everything adds up, like parking permits and books. It becomes such a great amount of money that even the slightest increase will have an effect."

Heath Anderson, a first-year Journalism-Print program student, agrees. "For me I'm going to be double hit. I'm getting married and I have to fill out a different form for the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP). So now I have to repay more money. But the increase won't keep me from returning next year. My education is too important to me," Anderson said.

"I've been saving money for college since fall," added Amy Byers, a high school graduate who applied to the Radio-Broadcasting-Television-Film program at the college.

"I'm more worried with spending money on books and transportation to school," she said.

In his announcement, Cooke said tuition fees would increase 10 per cent this fall and another 10 per cent in September 1995.

The standard tuition fees for college students will increase by $92 to $1,008 in 1994-95 and another $101 to $1,109 in 1995-96. However, many tuition fees for certain programs are much higher.

In 1994-95, tuition fees for undergraduate arts and science students at universities will increase by $202 to $2,228. In 1995-96, these fees will jump another $223 to $2,451. However, many tuition fees are much higher at the university level.

A student at the college level working for minimum wage will have to work an extra 14 hours just to pay off the increase.

Post-secondary education is subsidized by provincial taxpayers, therefore, 75 per cent of revenues received by colleges and universities come from the provincial government through transfer payments.

Cooke's announcement was followed by a statement by Ontario Finance Minister Floyd Laughren that funding for colleges will continue at previously announced levels.

Ontario has maintained transfer payments for 1994-95 without any

Continued on page 20

First years step up

By BRYAN BERNAT
Staff Writer

The Niagara News - the student newspaper at Niagara College - has a new staff.

After nearly two semesters of learning the responsibilities of reporting, editing and photography, the first-year Journalism-Print program students have the opportunity to practise what they've learned and apply it in writing the Niagara News.

Allan Shields, 21, of St. Catharines, has been covering the Student Administrative Council (SAC) beat amid "a ton" of work. "We do little the first half of the year, then all this work is piled on us at the end."

Heath Anderson, 23, of Niagara Falls, said he enjoys his sports beat, having recently covered the college's sports banquet. "I might have to join a team next year just so I can go to more of these banquets," he said. "No, seriously; It's a blast."

Kristen Herriott, 21, of St. Catharines, has been covering the Hospitality-Tourism beat at the Niagara Falls campus.

Asked how she feels about working on the student newspaper, she said, "I think the students are excited about working on the paper, but they're nervous too because we have just started learning layout."

good news for college

Ontario Premier Bob Rae was expected today to make a major funding announcement concerning the future of Niagara College's campus in St. Catharines while visiting the Niagara Region.

All signs are pointing to provincial approval for a $22-million facility on 20 hectares (5) acres) of land in Niagara-on-the-Lake across from White Oaks Inn.

The college bought the land last November for $1.5 million. The new campus is expected to serve about 3,000 full-time students and replace four aging facilities scattered throughout St. Catharines.

Area politicians, including college officials, were expected to attend the press conference, scheduled for 11 a.m. at White Oaks Inn, Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Photo contest winners

Winners in the first annual Journalism-Print program photography competition display some of their awards. From left: Stuart McDonald, first sports and first wild shots; Keith Hobbs, second sports; Greg Kelly, first human interest; Diane Berardi, second wild shots; Tom Brank, third human interest and Charlie Koscak, third wild shots. Front: Adele Nagy, second human interest and Monika Queckenstedt, third sports.

Niagara News photo

Good summer jobs are hard to find

By CHRISTINE RAWCLIFFE
Staff Writer

How do the majority of Niagara College students spend their summers? Many must work at saving money for college tuition and other expenses.

Beth MacDonald, 20, a first-year Journalism-Print program student spends her summer working 30 to 40 hours every week at the Donut Diner on Martindale Road in St. Catharines.

"Working so much doesn't give me much time for myself, so when I have a day off I try to make the best of it," she said.

Karen Freeman, 21, also a first-year Journalism-Print program student, spends her summer vacation in the same manner. She lives in Simcoe, Ont., and works at the Brantford Golf and Country Club in Brantford, Ont.

She puts in 40 hours a week at her job as a bartender and waitress. "I like my job as a waitress and bartender, but at times the work load is a bit much," said Freeman.

Both Freeman and MacDonald appreciate their summer jobs, but they also value the time off.

MacDonald said she is hoping to take at least one week off this summer to visit northern Ontario with friends. "Taking a week off is difficult for me to do, but if I give enough notice it should be possible," said MacDonald.

With Freeman's job, a summer vacation is much easier to get. She said her job is "fairly flexible" so taking time off to get away is possible.

Sherry Miller, 20, of Seaforth, Ont., a first-year Office Administration program student, has applied to work in the offices at Marineland in Niagara Falls this summer.

Miller said she hopes to work full-time at a job related to her field of study. "If I can find a summer job that will pay good money and be related to what I am studying that would be good," she said.

'If I can find a summer job that will pay good money and be related to what I am studying that would be good.'

Sherry Miller

Asked how she will be spending her summer, Beth Palin, 20, a first-year Social Workers program student, said "doing everything I can to get good hours so I can pay Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) back."

Palin lives in Seaforth, Ont., and works as a waitress.

Palin said her job pays well, but has a large staff that makes getting a lot of hours difficult.

No matter how many students are asked, many will be spending their summer vacations working to pay off tuition costs and other necessary expenditures.

"Summer to me means working every chance I get to pay of bills, especially the OSAI because I don't want to owe any one anything when I graduate,' said Freeman.

New library buildings in college master plan

By ELIZABETH MONSERE
Staff Writer

Trish Labonte, Niagara College head librarian, recently organized a meeting of faculty, students, staff and community representatives for a "visioning" exercise.

The exercise was in response to the Master Plan project under way at the college.

Two new library buildings have been identified in the college Master Plan. A $32-million building program includes a new St. Catharines campus and renovations at the Welland campus.

Members at the meeting discussed how the library should be a "pleasant place" for students and community members.

"Niagara College may be able to work closely with the Welland Public Library to share space and collections," said Labonte.

"There is no such thing as too much access," said Sean Rhoads, a Journalism-Print program student, who is also a student representative on the Master Plan committee.

Students need easy access to the many (resources) that the library will offer, he said.

"I think my biggest concern for the library should be a new building constructed to house the Library Resources Centre (LRC). It should be adequate space for future growth for future students," said Sandy Brooks, a library technician.

In addition to books, videos, and magazines, the library will have an electronic service available to students who are working at home or at different places at the school.

Members of the Master Plan committee would like computer access to public libraries in Ontario.

They would like the library to have equipment for the students to use computers, laser printers, photocopy and fax machines.

In the library there should be quiet space, individual and group rooms and plenty of open space, said Master Plan committee members.

If the Welland Public library is part of the new building, there should be comfortable reading areas and a children's activity room.

'My biggest concern for the library should be a new building constructed to house the LRC...'

Sandy Brooks

One concern of the Master Plan group was parking. Day rates are "too expensive" for members of the public, who would be visiting for one or two hours, said another committee member.

Labonte is meeting with several student groups to get input on the design of a new library building.

Third anniversary for After Hours

By CHRIS TWOSE
Staff Writer

The end of the winter term marks the third year the After Hours student centre has been open.

After Hours opened in September 1991.

The centre provides a venue for musicians, comedians, and is also a place for students to gather between classes to eat, play pool, or just hang out.

"It offers students a place to socialize in a relaxed atmosphere on campus," said Donna Flutur, the student centre manager.

Flutur has worked with the student council for 13 years, 10 years as an office manager and three years as student centre manager. Her role involves the responsibility of overseeing the kitchen and bar facilities as well as the various vendors.

The facility is open to students and teachers from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with the bar opening at 11:30 a.m.

Flutur said on occasion she has taken someone's car keys away, but on the whole there has been "maybe three memorable incidents" in the three years the centre has been open.

"The responsible students are committed to their education and the students who aren't will do what they want regardless of class schedules," she said.

The Student Administrative Council (SAC) offices are located in the student centre and Flutur works closely with SAC and the college to serve the student body.

She said she wants students to know her door is always open for students who need any information or assistance that she may be able to provide, such as grad photo information or upcoming college events.

Donna Flutur, student centre manager, sits at her desk.

Photo by Chris Twose

Helping students find jobs

By DAWN SWAYZE
Staff Writer

Marketing yourself is the key to employment in a competitve world, says Janet Forfar, a career services officer at Niagara College.

She is one of many people to assist students in the Career Service Office.

Forfar is responsible for helping students locate part-time, full-time, summer and graduate employment. Forfar said she also helps students with cover letters and upgrading resumes.

The Career Service Office has many resources for students investigating the job market. For example, there are local and government directories as well as numerous employment files. The office also finds placement for Co-op students, who need assistance in locating work.

If necessary, the Career Service Office will arrange mock interviews and mock applications.

Forfar said the services offered through Niagara College are unique and reliable for assistance.

"We're right in there with the rest of the colleges," she said.

When seeking employment, students are forced to compete with classmates, peers and others in the workforce. Being prepared and organized greatly benefits a potential employee, she added.

The Career Service is designed to accentuate the positive in regards to a student's skills and techniques.

"Students should get all the experience and use all the resources available to them" at the college, Forfar said.

Kevin Jennings, 35, is a second-year Electronic Engineer program student. He works through the career service office as a liaison officer. He is responsible for building new employment files. Jennings calls potential employers for third-year Co-op students. "I couldn't understand why we weren't getting positions filled . . . now I know," he said.

The recession has made it difficult for placements in electronic and computer fields. However, manufacturing and mechanical placements are abundant, said Jennings.

The Career Service and Co-op office found employment for 50 per cent of the students who required positions. Other students found placements independently.

Staff in the Career Service Office said they want students to use the facility to gain a better understanding of today's job market.

Journalism students start full-time work

By JOHN SAKARS
Staff Writer

After two years of books and classrooms, second-year Journalism-Print program students are going to area community and daily newspapers to work as full-time employees.

The work term lasts for April, after which students meeting course requirements will graduate.

Phyllis Barnatt, Journalism-Print program co-ordinator, said the work term acts as a final exam for the students. She said the newspapers are "very happy" to take on the students because they know how useful the experience is, and because they don't have to pay the students.

Barnatt said the month-long work term benefits the newspaper industry and the college, because editors can critique the students' work and let the college know if the students are missing anything, giving the college a chance to evaluate the system.

Of the 32 students, all have received placement, with about three going to work in public relations and the rest going to various newspapers in the province.

"I think it's going to be exciting," said Greg Furminger, 25, of St. Catharines. His placement is with the Niagara Falls Review. He'll soon be contacting his editor to find out what he'll be doing. He said he picked The Review because they've gotten some new, up-to-date equipment, and because it's a "smaller paper" and he wants to work in a "community-type environment."

Furminger said he thinks his work term at The Review will be easier than working for the Niagara News because he'll be able to focus on the paper without having a full-course load to deal with as well.

'It's like a real newspaper, you just don't get paid' says Tina Young

After he finishes his work term at The Review, he said he'd like to work at "a small paper up north, some place quiet," covering city council or doing investigative work.

"If you can come out of second-year journalism, you're ready for anything," said Tina Young, 27, of Welland. Her placement is with the Welland Tribune in the photography department.

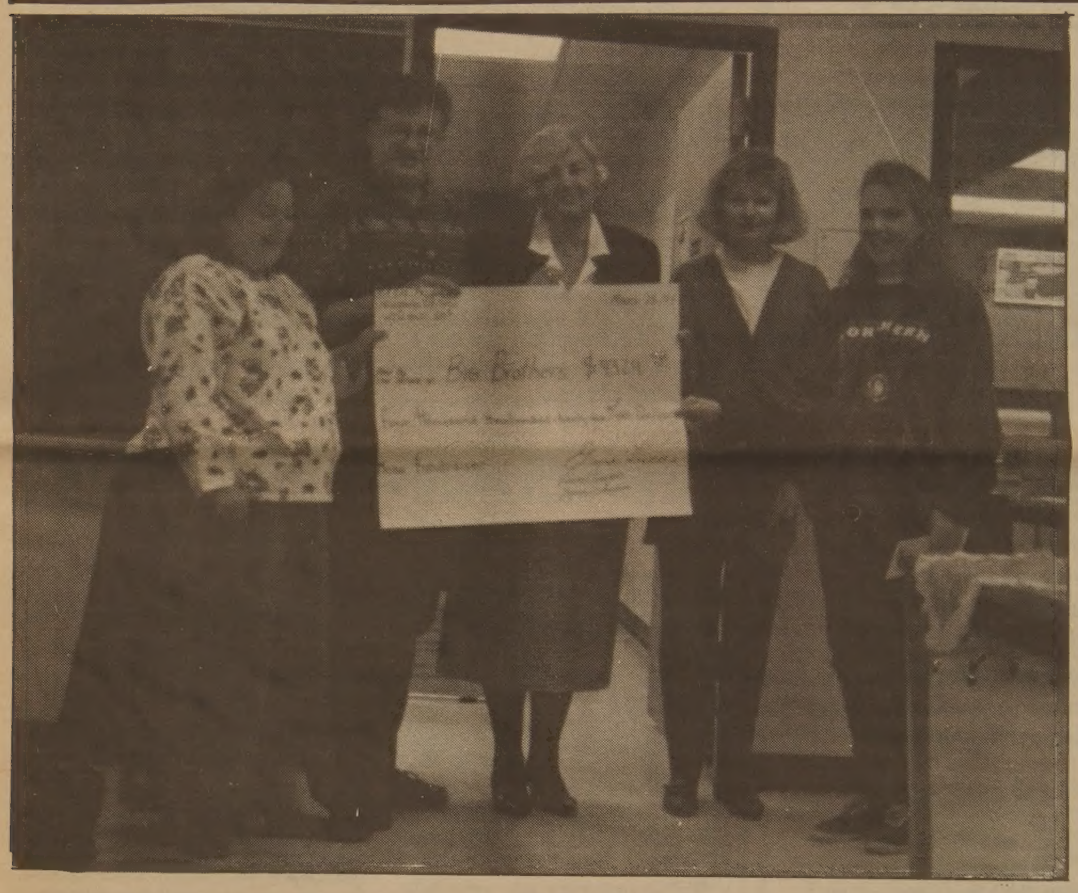
She said working for the Niagara News has prepared her well for work in the real world. "It's like a real newspaper, you just don't get paid." She said she'd like to get into photo-journalism, or work on feature stories, such as with a magazine.

"I'd eventually like to become an editor at a weekly newspaper," said Leann McHutchion, 21, of Fort Erie. She'll be a general assignment reporter with The Review for April's work term. She was employed on weekends for The Review since September.

She said the Journalism-Print program teaches the basics of reporting and gives students the practical experience needed to be able to go and work for a newspaper.

Other students are going for placement to the Cambridge Daily Reporter in Cambridge, Ont., the Grimsby Independent, Pelham Herald, the Welland Tribune, St. Catharines Standard, Niagara-on-the-Lake Advance, Niagara Regional Police Services, Niagara College's Marketing and Communications Department, Pulse Niagara, Exeter Times Advocate, Sackville Tribune Post in New Brunswick, Port Colborne News, Hotel Dieu Hospital's Development office, and the Hamilton Canucks in Hamilton.

Editor's Note: Twenty-nine second-year Journalism-Print students are spending April on work placement. This article was written prior to the students leaving. Three students have been hired since the interviews for this article were done.



Educational Resource and Special Needs(ERSN) students present Southern Niagara Big Brothers Director Greg Whelan with a cheque for over $4300. The money was raised by the ERSN students during their annual Bowl-a-rama fundraiser. From left: Jeanne DesLauriers, Greg Whelan, Elvira Lucas (ERSN program co-ordinator), Lecia Aucoin, and Melissa Bestward.

Photo by Sean Rhoads

ERSN students raise money for Big Brothers

By SEAN RHOADS
Staff Writer

First-year Educational Resources and Special Needs (ERSN) students carried on an 11-year-old tradition last Monday when they donated a cheque to the local Big Brothers Association.

The students presented Greg Whelan, executive director of the southern Niagara Big Brothers, with a cheque for more than $4,300. The money was raised by the students from their annual Bowl-a-rama fundraiser.

First-year students Lesia Aucoin and Jeanne DesLauriers organized the event this year as part of the volunteer work ERSN students perform as credit in their program.

"Mrs. (Elvira) Lucas informed (the class) of the project earlier this year, and Jeanne and I decided we would like to do it," said Aucoin. "We do volunteer work for credit and this is a really good cause."

Second-year ERSN student Melissa Bestward was also at the presentation. For the past two years, Bestward has raised the largest amount of pledge money of all ERSN students.

"Last year, a friend and I had a friendly competition going on to see who could raise the most money," said Bestward. "We ended up with about $3,300 between the two of us."

The students gathered for the Bowl-a-rama at the Eastside Lanes bowling alley in Welland.

Aucoin said friends, husbands, wives and children showed up for what was "a really, really fun time for everybody."

Whelan, who has been with the Southern Niagara Big Brothers for over four years, said he was "very pleased" with the students. "The ERSN program has always raised and donated a lot of money each year for Big Brothers."

Students present Big Brother with cheque for more than $4,300

For more information concerning the southern Niagara Big Brothers, the office is at the Seaway Mall, 800 Niagara St.

Instructor shares experiences

By PAUL HARDY
Staff Writer

Ron Tufts has returned to the college he graduated from to share his experience and expertise with students enrolled in Niagara College's Broadcasting-Radio, Television and Film program.

Tufts, 38, has been teaching radio to broadcasting students at Niagara for about two years.

After graduating from Niagara College in the late 1970s, Tufts spent 12 years at Telemedia in northern Ontario. There he worked as a program director, a station manager and an operations manager.

Returning to the Niagara Region, Tufts worked at CHOW radio station in Welland. He started there in sales, eventually becoming program director. He says he prefers management to sales.

Tufts says he got involved in broadcasting because he "always found it exciting." He says he became interested one night when he was on his way home from a baseball game in Dunnville. He stopped at CHOW to see if he could meet Norman B, a disc jockey who worked there at the time. The disc jockey let him in and gave him a tour of the station.

"I don't miss it at all because I'm still involved," says the resident of Ridgeway, Ont.

The broadcasting program has changed "considerably" since he was a student here, he says. "It's more demanding."

Tufts says the program already has about 500 applicants for next year.

Besides teaching radio, Tufts also teaches sales and marketing to journalism and broadcasting students, although he says only three journalism students were in his class this term.

"We'd love to see more journalism students," says Tufts.

Get ready for year-end bash

By CRAIG MORRISON
Staff Writer

Get ready for the biggest party of the year.

On Thursday, April 28, the Student Administrative Council (SAC) will be sponsoring its annual year-end bash at Smart Alex in St. Catharines.

The party starts at 8 p.m.

Students wishing to attend should buy their tickets in advance at a cost of $4. And for those first 200 students who buy their tickets in advance, SAC will give them a baseball cap of "the greatest event in Niagara College history." But for those students not purchasing their tickets in advance, the cost is $5 at the door.

SAC is hopeful of seeing many students at this event. Prizes will be awarded as well as a grand prize of one year paid tuition, or a trip for two with an estimated value of $1,500 for those students who will not be returning to the school.

For those concerned students who want to party hard, but do not want to drive, taxis will be provided at a flat rate for Niagara College students.

EDITORIAL PAGE

Women's sports forgotten

Where are all the women athletes at this school?

While we were looking through the brochures before coming to Niagara College, we noticed there weren't too many women's sports teams. The only contenders are in volleyball and curling. Due to this, we were unsure of whether or not to attend Niagara.

The reason behind the lack of women's sports opportunities is embarrassing.

My female peers had let us down.

Lack of interest is something we never thought we would hear. Past female ancestors in the athletic field fought too hard to make a name for themselves in a once male dominated area.

We're throwing this away!

What if there were no sports in the world? No feeling of competition, no championship games and definitely no extreme joy in winning an important game. The world would be very dull and boring!

Ladies, we need to use — not abuse — what women fought so hard for us to have!

The women can't play sports attitude died years ago. Let's not make a mockery of this statement.

Yet, things are shaping up for the women of Niagara. With the possible addition of both a women's indoor soccer team and basketball team in the season of 1994, athletics for women could take off!

Dedication, participation and perspiration...Let's do it!!

Shelley Holden

NDP boosts tuition

The New Democratic Party (NDP) of Ontario, led by Premier Bob Rae, has once again given the people of this province something to complain about.

Beginning in September of this year, students will see an increase of about 10 per cent in their tuition. For college students, this means another $92 added to the price tag, and over a $100 for university students. In 1995, another 10 per cent will be added to the previous year, raising the price for college students again another $100. For university students it will be even more.

Although we can't be happy about a rise in the cost of going to school, neither can we let it get in the way of our education.

Like many of the other students here at Niagara College, I was out in the workforce full-time before coming back to school. We know the amount of money to be made with just a Grade 12 education. It's not a lot.

In these tough economic times, when good jobs aren't easy to find, we certainly won't let another $100 or so put us back out in the working world armed only with our high school diploma.

Sure, we'll complain because we don't like the rise in tuition, but we'll take it because we know our educations, and our careers, are well worth it. I wonder, do you think Bob Rae was counting on this?

Sean Rhoads

A change for the better

SHELLEY HOLDEN
Staff Writer

As the school year comes to an end, I find myself looking back at all the many things that happened to me in such a short time.

As an out-of-town visitor to Niagara, at first it looked extremely scary. What was more frightening, was that I had left my life in another city to build a new one in a strange place I knew nothing about. My life changed dramatically the day I received my acceptance to Niagara College.

I wasn't quite sure what to expect of Niagara and truthfully, it has surprised me how great things have turned out. I quickly learned the program I entered was very exciting and interesting. I soon began to respect some special people. Some of these people, my teachers, have shown me how much fun learning can actually be.

Despite coming to Niagara to receive a good education, I received something no education could ever give me. The bonding of some truly amazing people have created a home for me here. Without these people, school would take on a different meaning. One particular person, who has made such a great impact on my life, makes me believe my decision to come here was the best thing I've done in a long time.

I have told people, in a humorous manner, my quick decision to come to Niagara was some sort of omen. Deep down inside, I truly believe this. I have new

'I am certainly on the right path'

and wonderful relationships, mentors to educate me and now I am being given the chance to do something I've always had a passion for, playing women's basketball. I am certainly on the *right path!*

College years are said to be the best years of your life. So far, Niagara College has given me some wonderful memories to cherish. I look forward to the many more rewards I know it will offer me in the future.

Problems happen everywhere

Dear Editor:

I would like to offer a rebuttal against the March 18 editorial regarding the internal problems of the Student Administrative Council (SAC).

First, does the editor not realize problems of this nature occur in corporations and businesses *everywhere*? They correct their problems the same way we did - they get rid of the problem.

As far as a decrease in the quality of service, Mr. [Tom] Brank failed to get all the information. During our most chaotic time, I personally launched the largest information campaign in SAC history. And during this time, both student awareness *and* student participation *increased by about 20 per cent.* The other members of SAC were equally busy with their own duties. Mr. Brank, how can you even *suggest* internal problems reduced our effectiveness?

Second, *where have you been,* Mr. Brank? Have you not seen the improvements happening throughout SAC? How many events have you been to? How many times have you offered suggestions, or even your help? How often, Mr. Brank, have *you* tried to combat student apathy yourself?

I think your editorial would have been much better written if you had stepped out from behind your word processor.

Trevor K. Obee
Executive Vice-President
Niagara College SAC

Correction

In an article in the last edition of the Niagara News (Vol. 24, No. 14, Page 7, March 25), a paraphrase statement attributed to Beth Weldon, director of the college's management information services, implied one job may be lost because of a new voice mail system.

The quote should have read: "We anticipate that the automated attendant part of the voice mail system package will eliminate the need for part-time staff in the switchboard area. No full-time jobs will be affected whatsoever."

The Niagara News apologizes for the error.

NIAGARA NEWS

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First Edition is the first newspaper by the first-year journalism-print students, who take over the newspaper production while the second-year students are on field placement. The first-year students will publish the last two editions of the Niagara News during April on a bi-weekly basis. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the newspaper or the administration of Niagara College.

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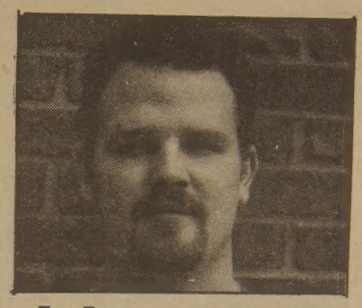
PERSPECTIVES



It's 1994, not '1984'

By JASON GRAHAM
Staff Writer

I am not a racist.

I just wanted to get that out of the way before the "facists of the left" come knocking at my door with a verbal noose in their hand.

Political Correctness (PC) has gone too far. It began with good intentions, trying to find appropriate monikers for minorities and other outdated linguistic faux pas. But, enough is enough. It has become extremely difficult deciphering the line between what is an appropriate term, or if I am a dummy to the politically correct ventriliquist.

I should not have the sentence "what am I allowed to say?" in my head at all. The PC movement has taken social ideas and aimed them at conforming today's spoken and written word.

'Teachers are monitoring their words very carefully'

"People of color", "vertically challenged" and "indigenous person" have taken the place of "black", "short" and "Indian", words fully accepted 10 years ago. If we look 10 years into the future are we going to have to change these terms again? I thought I was cool and liberally hip using the term "African-American", but this term has been replaced by the same minority group that came up with it five or six years ago.

North American campuses have been affected most by this wave of political correctness. Teachers are monitoring their words very carefully and the students are suffering. We chose to further our education and somewhere we expect controversy to flow from our teachers' mouths. But, thanks to political correctness, we wait, and listen to clenched lipped lectures and soft, safe speeches on nothing at all.

By DAWN SWAYZE
Staff Writer

Words like wop, spic, broad and fag were once popular. However, they are no longer being tolerated in most circles.

Verbal assaults are being eliminated with increased awareness of political correctness (P.C.). Since stereotypes are demeaning and dehumanizing; society has begun to take measures against such oppression.

On college and university campuses across the country, people are not being forced to deal with unnecessary dirty jokes and racial slurs. Schools in Ontario have instilled 'code's of conduct' for professors. Professors face suspension if caught using their privileges to promote sexual or racial tension.

Such policies should be a sign of the direction in which we are headed. As a society we lose nothing and gain self-respect by conducting our lives in an appriopriate manner. We must learn to keep our hands to ourselves and our verbal attacks to a minimum.

The politically correct movement is not a platform for radical feminists, as some have suggested. It is a movement geared toward democratic equality for both men and women.

Rather than stereotyping people as "Orwellian thought-police," we should recognize them as advocates for human rights.

No one is expected to check with their P.C. dictionaries before opening their mouths, but to keep in mind what it feels like to be the butt of the joke, or the "dumb broad."

"Men are not facing lawsuits for harassment unless their hands accompany their compliments." P.C. has confused what is deemed as acceptable conduct. This fact suggests that everything and anything was acceptable prior to P.C. awareness.

Political correctness does not limit freedom of speech or expression. P.C. forces people to put their brains in gear before putting their jaws in motion.

What Opposition Party?

By PAUL HARDY
Staff Writer

The utter audacity of Lucien Bouchard and his Bloc Quebecois cohorts never ceases to amaze me.

The Bloc Quebecois, who on Oct. 25, 1993 became Her Majesty's Laughable Opposition, have taken up the gauntlet of Quebec separation, an issue that seems to routinely come to the fore of Canadian politics about every 10 years.

While the issue itself is nothing new, the Bloc has thrown the rest of Canada a curve by becoming the first sovereigntist party to be elected to our federal legislature (a handful of Bloc MPs sat in the last House, but didn't have enough seats to receive official party status).

Now first off, let's get one thing straight; the mere presence of a sovereigtnist party in the House of Commons is treasonous and should not be tolerated by the government or the rest of Canada.

Second, if the Bloc are in Parliament solely to lay the groundwork for Quebec's secession from Canada, as Bouchard says, then who will provide the duties of the Official Opposition?

Bouchard said, at the time of his election, the Bloc would defend the interests of all Canadians. But since the opening of Parliament, the Bloc's role has been far removed from that of the Official Opposition checking the excesses of the government.

And why is there even a need for Quebec to send a sovereignist party to Ottawa? The provincial Parti-Quebecois has already promised a referendum on separation within a year if they are elected to form the next provincial government. If Quebec really wants to separate, let them argue about it in their own legislature.

So what purpose is the Bloc Quebecois serving besides soaking up taxpayers' dollars and wasting everybody's time in the House of Commons?

The thing that's really worrisom is that Canadians don't seem to be nearly as outraged by this whole thing as they should be. The presence of a sovereignist party in Ottawa should have people panicking all over the country.

But instead, we sit idly by as our once proud country is torn apart by what amounts to nothing more than a group of spoiled whiners.

God help us.

To Quit or Not to Quit

By MICHAEL GREVES
Staff Writer

One night before bed, just after having smoked my last cigarette of the evening, I decided I wasn't going to smoke anymore.

I woke up a little late for school the next morning, and while the car warmed up, I stood outside and had a cigarette.

Unconsciously. Routinely. I may as well have gone for a short jog, right? But I suddenly realized I had set something out for myself which slipped my memory. Then I didn't even have the will to put the damned thing out.

I damn cigarettes to hell. They took my grandmother with their cancer-causing agents. Cigarettes hold me with an iron hand. My circulation is poor and I can't run up stairs as well as I could six years ago, just two effects of cigarettes I feel. I'm 20. Shouldn't this be the peak of my life, going out and having a good time?

I really don't party as most people my age do, but my feelings of unacceptance were what turned me onto cigarettes in the first place. In Grade 9, I really didn't feel accepted at the high school in small town Niagara-on-the-Lake. I felt those around me thought I was strange or different. I was a theatre student and a non-smoker. I know now that everyone is different.

By Grade 10, I decided to try to make good friends. I smoked on and off, and stood outside with the smokers — rain, snow or shine. I was becoming cool and part of the school's majority. Too bad the majority smoked. By Grade 11, I smoked regularly. I was a smoker. I even developed a look, with a "Young Guns" trench coat, minus the hat and boots, which I couldn't afford at the time.

'So far, I have quit about 60 times, including those broken New Year's resolutions'

People can be categorized as smokers, ex-smokers or non-smokers. My mother and father are ex-smokers. My friends Brigitte and Bill are non-smokers. (Another category could be social smokers, but we'll lump that into smokers). I am a smoker. Three to four packs a week, equaling between 10.7 and 14.28 cigarettes a day. Nothing as appalling as a pack a day, but, still, my baby could come out with an elephant's head or something.

The decision I made at 9:21 p.m., as I brushed the snow off my coat, came to nothing. So far, I have quit about 60 times, including those broken New Year's resolutions, and I will never have to quit again. The next time I quit, it will be final.

Many of my friends, no matter how supportive they are of me in other ventures or how supportive I am of them in their fruitless endeavors, mocked me when I told them I was going to quit by my birthday. Even my parents have turned my past announcements into a chance to lecture me on the evils of smoking. This time I just didn't bother to tell them.

Friends have said things like "What's wrong with now?" or "Sure, sure, and you quit at New Year's, too." Guffaw, guffaw, they really are funny. They mock my attempt to save my own life, probably the most important thing I try to do.

I want to quit. I have made a choice to quit when I want to and nothing will deter me.

Fashion students preparing for Visualize '94

By PAUL HARDY
Staff Writer

Second-year Fashion Merchandising-Visual Promotions program students are taking their skills on the road.

The students have been working on a project since the beginning of the term that will eventually be on display at two area malls this month.

Splitting into groups of two, the students had to construct displays that will be used to display merchandise. The displays include items such as backdrops and furniture, and all follow different "fantasy-oriented themes," said Joan Davies, co-ordinator of the program.

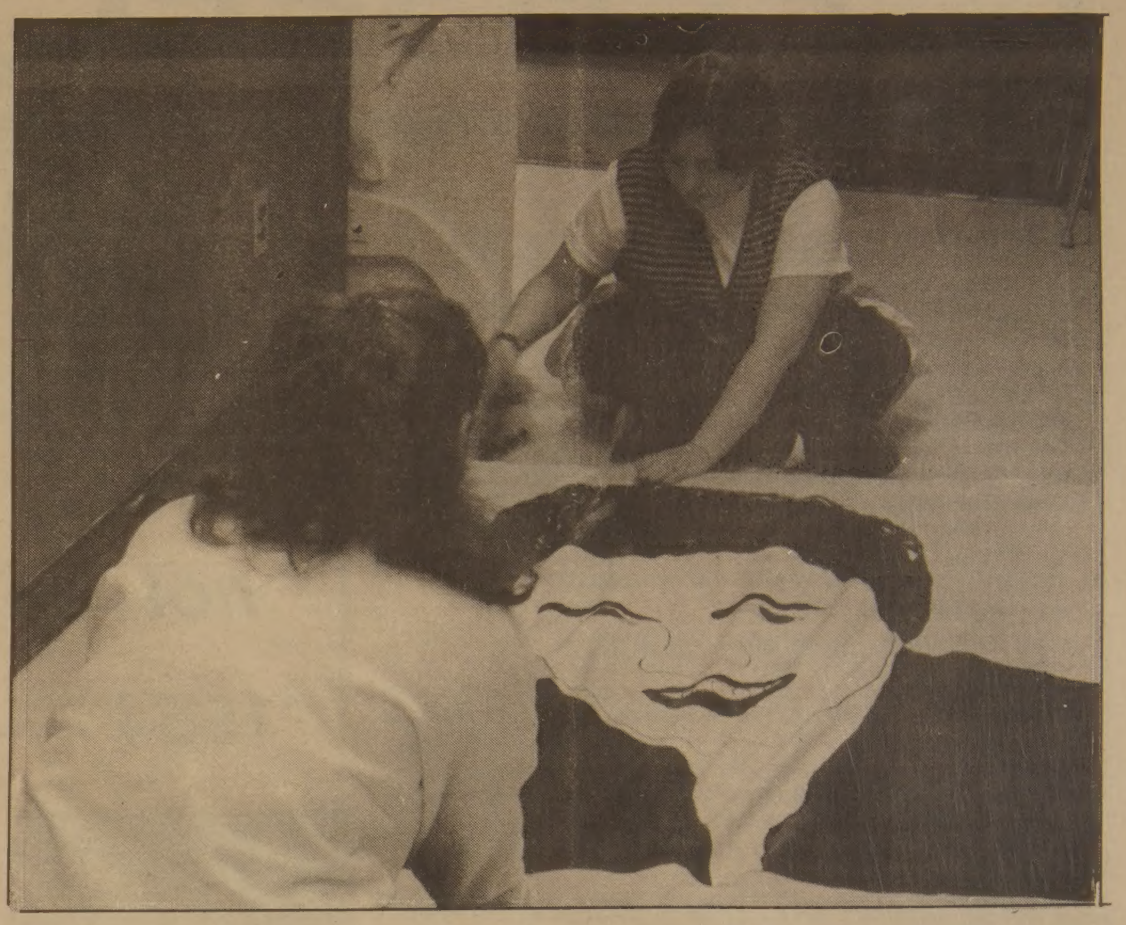
Fourteen displays will be on show, with merchandise being provided by mall merchants.

displays follow

'fantasy-orientated

themes' Davies

The exhibit is entitled Visualize '94. The displays will be on exhibit at Niagara Square in Niagara Falls on April 8 and 9 and at the Seaway Mall in Welland on April 15, 16 and 17.



Mary Veci, left, and Lee Anne Lindsay, right, both second-year Fashion Merchandising-Visual Promotions students, prepare Elvis Presley backdrop for Visualize '94 display.
Photo by Paul Hardy

Exam time creates stress and pressure

By BETH MacDONALD
Staff Writer

It's that time of year again when Niagara College students begin preparing for final examinations.

Chrisie Foote, 19, a first-year Early Childhood Education (ECE) student, is trying to get a head start.

For many students like Foote, this can be a stressful time of year.

"When exam time comes around I have a hard time eating, sleeping and I usually am a b.... to be around," she said.

Although this semester, she has a plan that she hopes will put an end to her test anxiety. "I refuse to let myself get all stressed out. A bunch of friends and myself are planning to form a study group and start studying this week," said Foote.

'When exam time comes around...I have a hard time eating,' Foote

Donna Jessome, 20, also a first-year ECE student at the college, is planning to take part in the study group. "I really hope this works because like Chrisie said it can be really hard on a person when they have so much at risk on one exam, I mean this is the rest of our lives," said Jessome, adding she also plans to do a lot of her studying on her own.

"I like the idea of us working as a group but when you're used to doing it one way, alone, it's hard," she said.

For some students like Carol Hanzel, 20, a nursing student at the Mack Centre for Nursing in St. Catharines, study groups just don't work. "I like to study alone rather than in groups. I find that if I go over the material by myself then it's more likely to stick in my head for the exam," she said.

She did agree exams can add extra pressure to an already full schedule. "Sure I find exams hectic, but I don't get all worked up over them like some people do," said Hanzel.

All three students agree on one thing - everybody should give themselves plenty of time in advance to start studying rather than waiting until the last minute.

"I've left studying until the last minute before and ended up doing fairly well on the exam but when you have a head start you would be surprised how much better you do," said Jessome.

Increase in tuition big concern

By KRISTEN HERRIOTT
Staff Writer

Many Niagara College students will be affected by the 10 per cent increase in next year's tuition.

For those receiving government loans, the Ontario Student Assistance Plan (OSAP) payback will take its toll and perhaps create financial hardship for many years to come.

Every year more and more students apply to colleges and universities and many of the applicants cannot afford an education without government funding. OSAP has given many students the chance to further their education, and in turn, open many doors of opportunity.

Bryan Bernat, 19, of St Catharines, a first-year Journalism-Print program student, said with a 10 per cent increase in tuition, OSAP is the only option for some students.

"Lots of people think OSAP is a free ride, but they forget about paying it back. An increase in tuition will only drag them down further into debt," he said.

John Nyland, 21, of Burlington, Ont., is enrolled in the Law and Security Administration program at Niagara College. He said he was "shocked and angered" when he heard the news of the increase.

"The increase will affect everyone, but those who are able to pay for their tuition without government funding, the burden of the increase will be forgotten after graduation. On the other hand, students who collect OSAP will be constantly reminded as they pay off their debt over many years," said Nyland.

Rich Daniels, 22, of Fort Erie, who is graduating in June, said he can breath a sigh of relief. He said he is glad he won't be affected by the increase, but feels for the students who are returning to college next year.

"My friends talk about how their parents' biggest debt at our age was their mortgage and how our education debt is double the debt they had," said Daniels.

April is AIDS awareness month

By BRENT LADEROUTE
Staff Writer

April is AIDS awareness month at Niagara College's St. Catharines campus.

The Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) awareness campaign is being organized by Christine Schimpky, 23, a registered nurse, who graduated from the Niagara College Nursing program in 1991.

Schimpky said she is running the campaign this month in orde

'The campaign is not meant to advocate sex' Schimpky

to ensure a "safe summer" for students.

"The campaign is not meant to advocate sex," she said. "Abstinence is the best way to avoid contracting AIDS, but if students are going to have sex they should know how to protect themselves."

Along with distributing information about AIDS, Schimpky said she will be happy to answer any questions students may have.

Free condoms will also be available to all students at the campus.

Every month, Schimpky holds similar campaigns on various health issues she feels are of concern to students.

December is dedicated to inform students about the dangers of drinking and driving. Schimpky said she likes to make sure students have a safe Christmas holiday.

She dedicates the month of January to a stop-smoking campaign. "A lot of people try to quit smoking as their New Year's resolution, so the campaign goes over well," she said.

Schimpky asked students for suggestions on issues they would like to see her address next year. Some of the suggestions she is considering for her monthly campaigns include general nutrition, holistic medicine and stress 'nanagement.

Schimpky is available at the St. Catharines campus on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

'100% success rate' for PLA, Keppy says

By WILLY NOILES
Staff Writer

Niagara College has a 100 per cent success rate for every Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) challenge, says Brian Keppy, general education co-ordinator and PLA facilitator.

He says Niagara has steps in place to ensure a "100 per cent success rate" for PLA.

PLA has officially existed within the college system since September 1993, but it hasn't been promoted yet, because the college didn't want to "look unprepared," he says.

Keppy says the steps Niagara has in place are: talking to him as facilitator, identifying the program and particular courses you wish to challenge, and then talking to the faculty expert of that course.

Keppy says a five-minute conversation with the faculty expert "usually makes or breaks the challenge."

If the outcome is positive, at this point, the challenger will fill out the PLA challenge form, and pay a $50 assessment fee. This fee is set out by the Council of Regents, not Niagara, he says.

Once the challenge is approved, the registar's office will enter an S for satisfactory completion. If you are unsuccessful, it is not recorded on your transcript.

"The philosophy (of PLA)... is match your knowledge with knowledge from a course. If there isn't a match, you're not a failure, you just don't have a match," he says.

Keppy says PLA is an evolution of the old exemption system.

Most transfers of credit have been called exemptions, but they're not, he says. "You're not exempt from having to know it, you're only exempt from having to sit in a traditional classroom.

"A PLA earned credit, and an in-class earned credit, and a transfer in of credit are all the same. You have proven one way or another that you know the information," he says.

"I really do believe that a PLA credit is a really worthwhile credit and should be respected."

PLA is designed for three types of people, he says. The first are high school students who have received certain training that may not be recognized because of a lack of an articulation agreement.

An immigrant who has advanced training, but from a school Niagara doesn't recognize is another type of student PLA has helped, he says.

The third would be mature students who have been in the workforce, been laid off, and decided to return to school. But mature students are usually concerned about the amount of time required to earn a diploma, says Keppy.

"If we can go to them and say ... in a three-year program you may already have the equivalent of two years, then it's much more likely they'll return."

Goldie Hill, social services worker co-ordinator and specialist assessor on the PLA steering committe, says one of the biggest challenges facing PLA is that faculty have to be "clear on the learning outcomes" of courses.

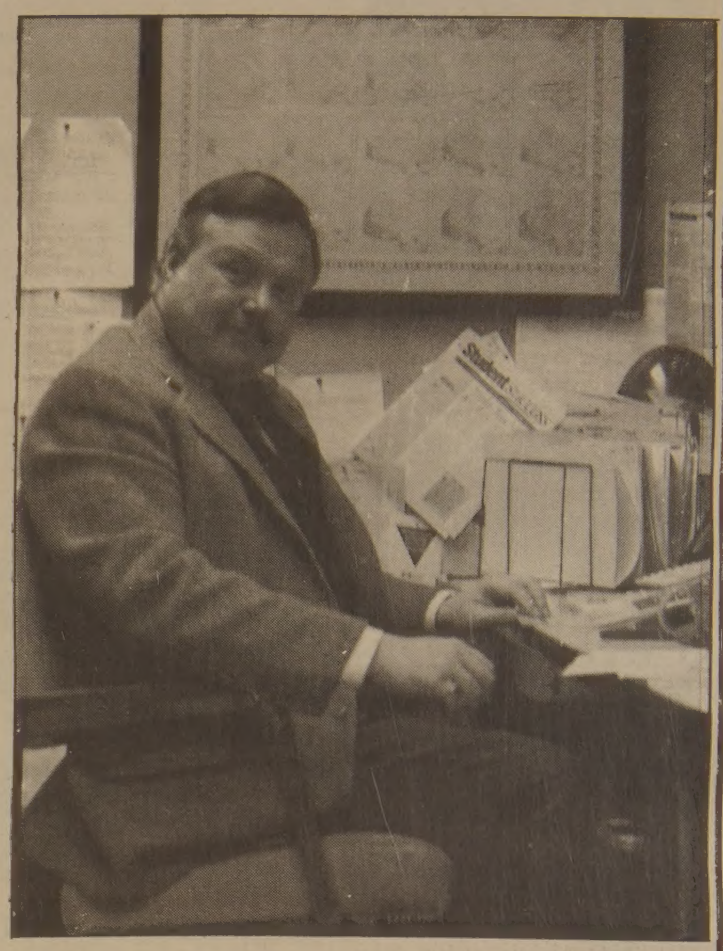
By September 1994, through provincial mandate, 50 per cent of all courses at Niagara College will be PLA challengeable. By September 1995, all courses will be PLA challengeable.

All courses are currently challengeable by portfolio. The college defines portfolio has a collection of materials which identifies your experience, documents your achievements, and analyzes the skills and knowledge acquired.

"PLA is a super opportunity for people who have life experience, so that they don't have to repeat in class" skills they already know, Hill said.

PLA has been brought into the system at a good time, says Hill, because of mature students wishing to return to school for retraining.

"We're responding to the community's needs and that's important," says Hill.



Brian Keppy, Prior Learning Assessment facilitator, reviews course outlines.

Photo by Willy Noiles

Student copes with dyslexia

By MARK BROUWER
Staff Writer

Michael Wales, 24, of 699 Niagara St. in Welland, was diagnosed with developmental dyslexia at age eight. He is now a first-year journalism student at Niagara College with a high-80 per cent average.

Dyslexia is believed to affect about 10 per cent of public school students and is defined as a reading disorder, but also affects auditory and depth perception in some sufferers. These children have problems reading because they sometimes misinterpret visual data, mixing up certain letters like q, p, d, and b and, at times, reversing entire words.

A former political science and economics student, Wales came to the college in September after re-evaluating his life priorities. "I saw where I was heading, and I didn't like it," he said.

Wales' dyslexia was diagnosed early. "I was diagnosed because I was writing backwards," he said. "My parents were glad it was caught early and that it wasn't because of a lack of intelligence."

It is believed by some experts that dyslexics are usually of average to above average intelligence, but Wales disagrees because of his own experience.

"It sounds rather speculative to me," he said. "My perception is different. Maybe that different perception is what is being misconstrued as intelligence."

Wales said now that he is older, he is unhappy about the way his problem was dealt with, but realizes more advanced methods for helping dyslexics have only recently been developed.

Wales, a left-handed student, said the method they used was "pavlovian." He said whenever he wrote out a passage correctly he was given an Oreo cookie. This training took place in a remedial portable at his public school for three hours a week for about a year.

There was a stigma attached to going to the portable, he said, which was referred to by the other students as the "retard" portable.

Wales said he doesn't notice the problem as much after years of compensating, but it sometimes resurfaces with stress and he has to use a ruler when he reads in order to keep his attention on the line he is reading.

Mild cases of the brain disorder can be treated with this stimulus response type of teaching, but severe cases that involve depth perception problems and listening difficulties can lead to complete illiteracy and can sometimes be misinterpreted as retardation.

Michael Wales, 24, first-year journalism-print student, studies for upcoming finals.

Photo by Mark Brouwer

Smile brightens up caf

By ERIN JONES
Staff Writer

Isabel Hendry, 56, is overworked and underpaid, but she would never admit it.

Hendry is a cashier in the Black Walnut cafeteria at Niagara College. She is easily recognized by her tan and inviting smile.

Hendry says she truly loves her job and takes her work beyond the call of duty. "We're a little short-handed, so I help with dishes, and clean up as much as I can."

The Welland resident was originally from Scotland. She came to Canada alone in 1956, at 17. Hendry started working at the college in 1977 when the cafeteria was operated by Niagara Frontier Inc. It is now operated by Versa Foods.

"This is my 17th year here," says Hendry jokingly. "I should have shares."

"Isabel is well-liked by the students," says co-worker Valerie Lane.

"The students are the only reason I'm still here," says Hendry.

"The students are pretty friendly this year, we all enjoy them.

"We try to make the prices as reasonable as we can, we give them specials, because we know hard things are for the kids these days," she says.

"I met a student who went here a few years back and they still remembered my name."

Hendry says she cannot think of a single thing she doesn't like about her job. "There is never a dull moment (working here)," she says. "It's like having a lot of kids of your own."

Hendry is married to a "terrific" man named David. She has a daughter, Dawn, who lives in South Carolina. She also has two grandsons. "I still feel like I'm on honeymoon," says Hendry, with the look of a love-crazed teenager etched in her face.

March 30 was her last day at the college, but she'll be back next year.

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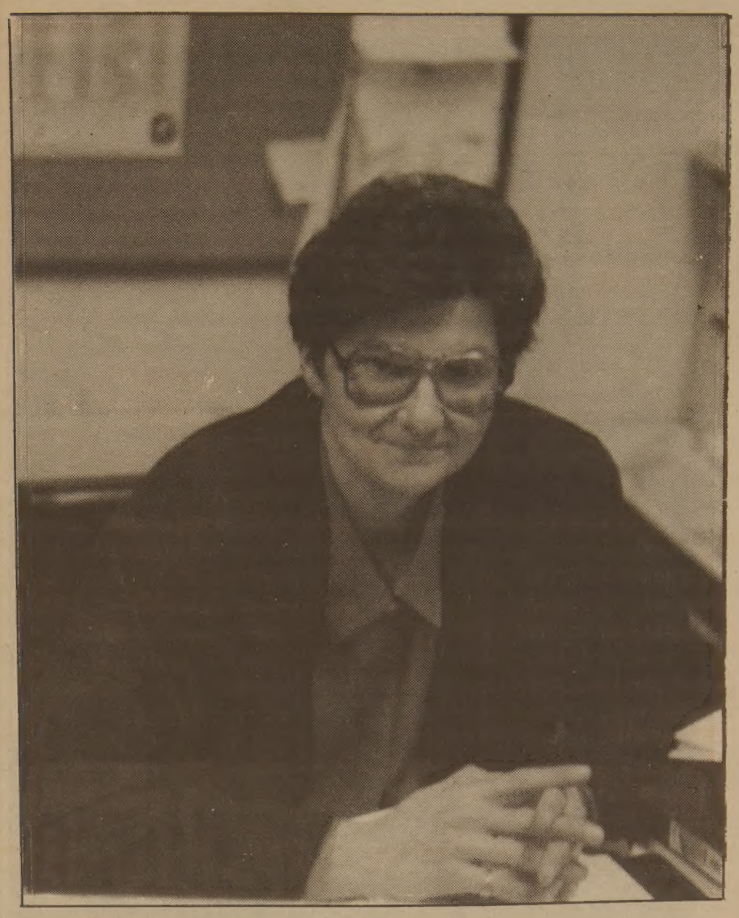
Niagara offers Rec Leadership program



Judy Halaiko, co-ordinator of the new Recreation Leadership program. Halaiko is pleased to finally have the Recreation program off the ground.

Photo by Jason Graham

By JASON GRAHAM
Staff Writer

Most people don't know what it takes to get a new college program off the ground.

Six years ago, Judy Halaiko, Niagara College's co-ordinator for the new Recreation Leadership program, performed a needs assessment in the Niagara Region to see if there was a requirement for a leisure/recreation program at Niagara College.

"We found that there was a need for recreation grads in the area," said Halaiko.

In January this year, Halaiko's initiative finally became a reality with the start of the new Recreation program.

After waiting three years to get funding and 2 1/2 years as a "tentative program," Niagara College's Recreation Leadership program gives students an opportunity to learn about the leisure industry.

She said they want to give the students a solid basis of recreation learning, including "facility management" and "leisure program development."

"At the beginning I didn't see the point of the program, but as it progressed I began to see the relevancy," said Dave Murray, 19, of Grimsby, Ont.

On graduation, Murray said he plans to look for employment at the industrial level - recreation and leisure programs at office buildings and factory plants.

With 14 other recreation programs across Ontario's community colleges, Halaiko said she wanted Niagara's program to be different, but the Board of Governors disagreed. The board said the program wasn't "general enough" and it had to be broadened to be approved.

Tyler Smith, 20, also of Grimsby, said he has enjoyed the course so far. He said he wants to get involved with the community or "running programs at the YMCA."

With more people retiring before the age of 65, recreation and leisure programs for the elderly have become a huge industry.

Halaiko said Niagara Region has the second highest number of senior citizens in Canada, next to Victoria, B.C.

"Senior citizens have become major purchasers of leisure activity," said Halaiko.

This growth leads to employment for Recreation Leadership graduates. Halaiko said leisure activities for the elderly do not mean just those at senior homes, but large recreation programs in senior condominiums and townhouse complexes.

Curriculum in the Recreation Leadership program includes the teaching of the history of recreation, anatomy and physiology.

Halaiko graduated from the University of Waterloo with a degree in Kinesiology. She received her bachelor of education degree and taught high school until coming to Niagara College.

Dental students benefit from Ono's expertise

By VICTORIA BECK
Staff Writer

Carole Ono has been in the dental hygiene field for more than 30 years, since she started at the University of Toronto.

Ono has three degrees that she has brought to Niagara College as co-ordinator of the Dental Hygiene program.

She has a diploma in dental hygiene, a bachelor of arts, and a master of education though, she said, she "tends to use R.D.H. which stands for Registered Dental Hygienist."

Before Ono came to Niagara in the fall of 1992, there had not been a Dental Hygiene program for four years. The program was suspended between 1988 and 1992 for budgetary reasons.

Ono said the dental community in the Niagara Region was active in getting the Dental Hygiene program reinstated, and that when John Saso took over as president of Niagara College, it was "important to have the program reinstated."

Dr. Ted Henderson is the dental consultant for the Dental Hygiene program as one of seven dentists who come in to help students. There are five full-time and five part-time hygienists to supervise and check the students' work on clients, said Ono.

There are 34 students doing clinical work with about 30 to 40 clients per student. Each student does about 28 to 34 hours a week in clinical, said Ono.

During January to June, the hygiene students see about 1,200 people who want to get their teeth cleaned.

The "process is slow because students are learning, there are checks and balances for each stage of the procedure that's done," said Ono.

"Dentists check certain procedures and dental hygienists check others," Ono said, explaining instructors check the teeth done by students.

"I have always been very committed to the profession, and played an active role in the professional organization of dental hygiene on the provincial and national levels," said Ono.

"I think it's very important for any educator to have a strong commitment to their field of profession. I don't think somebody should be teaching if they don't feel that kind of love and commitment to their own field."

Tuition hikes up to 20 per cent

By TREVOR OBEE
Staff Writer

The Ontario Community College Student Parliamentary Association (OCCSPA) has mixed emotions over Ontario Minister of Education and Training David Cooke's tuition announcement March 23.

Cooke announced tuition hikes of up to 20 per cent over the next two years.

"To a degree (Cooke) listened to the recommendations outlined in our tuition proposal submitted to his office last September," said OCCSPA president Wayne Phillips in a press release. Phillips said one proposal accepted by Cooke was a freeze in ancillary fees until stronger guidelines to their increase are developed.

'...adequate services are being provided to students,' Cooke

Cooke also announced changes to The Ontario Student Assistance Plan (OSAP) to cover the increase in tuition. This change will increase the debt of students who qualify for OSAP by an additional $430 a year.

OCCSPA originally opposed the increase at a time of near-zero inflation. However, in OCCSPA's tuition paper the organization requested to be at the bargaining table, at the provincial and college levels, to ensure any increase would be directed toward student support services, so "adequate services are being provided to students."

Phillips said OCCSPA has a lot of work to do now "to make sure the [Ontario New Democratic] government follows through with their promises."

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Soave likes 'working with children'

By DEANNA FERBRACHE
Staff Writer

Allison Soave, the co-ordinator of Early Childhood Education (ECE) program, is a dedicated teacher.

"I have always liked working with children," said Soave, who lives in Niagara Falls, Ont.

She began her training at Ryerson University in Toronto. Since that time, Soave has acquired her master's degree in education, a diploma in Early Childhood Education, a bachelor of arts in sociology, and is working towards a PhD.

Since 1969, Soave has been working part-time at Niagara College. She first heard about a job opening in the spring of 1969, during an open house and later applied in September.

'ECE is a really popular program, but it's difficult to get into. There are only 120 spaces available for placement and approximately 400 apply each year.' — Allison Sauve

As course co-ordinator, Soave's job is to oversee the progress of the students, work with program staff, and develop the curriculum and programs.

"ECE is a really popular program, but it's difficult to get into," she said. "There are only 120 spaces available for placement and approximately 400 apply each year."

Each applicant must take a communication skills test in which they are required to write an essay. High school marks, background experience and references are also taken into consideration. Once enrolled, daily class schedules for students are divided in half. One half is spent in field placement, while the other is spent "hitting the books."

The ECE program is also separated into five different areas of learning; post diploma programs through continuing education, ECE administration, infant care, and an ECE resource teacher course.

The Niagara Day Care Centre, in the Brant Annex of the Welland campus, provides services to the children of staff, students and a few surrounding residents of Thorold. The centre operates Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The foundation for training to be an Early Childhood Educator is a good understanding of adults, and a special love for children, said Soave.

Bus service needs facelift

By ALLAN SHIELDS
Staff Writer

Many students at Niagara College who do not own vehicles are struggling to get to school every day; mainly those coming from St. Catharines and Niagara Falls.

The school offers a bus transit for these particular out-of-towners, but the bus arrives at the school before classes begin and does not leave until 5:30 p.m.

"It's a real drag waking up that early (for the bus) when some of my classes don't begin until 10:30 a.m.," says Bryan Bernat, 21, a Journalism-Print program student living in St. Catharines.

"Maybe they (the college) should offer continous daily routes; more like a city transit." Bernat says if the college did improve their bus transit, "more students will get to school."

Mark Brouwer, 23, also a Journalism-Print program student living in St. Catharines, says he does not enjoy hanging around school waiting for the bus when he has other things to do. "I wish there was a bus that left the school about mid-afternoon," says Brouwer.

"I don't mind the early arrival because I just end up doing my homework before classes start."

"I'm always concerned about how I'm going to get to school everyday," says Marcelo Orelana, 22, a Business Accounting student also from St. Catharines. "It's difficult for me to afford a car, and if I have no choice but to rely on a bus, yes, a more convenient bus schedule would be great. Getting to school should be the last of my worries."

Pam Fowler, 20, a General College student living in Niagara Falls, also agrees. "Something similiar to the Brock Rapid, transportation every two hours or so, would be better for students," says Fowler. "This issue has now been taken into consideration by Niagara College in hopes for a more practical schedule for the 94-95 school year," she says.

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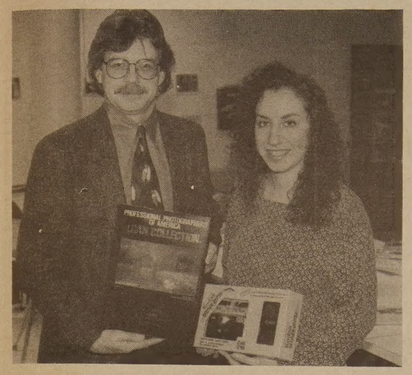
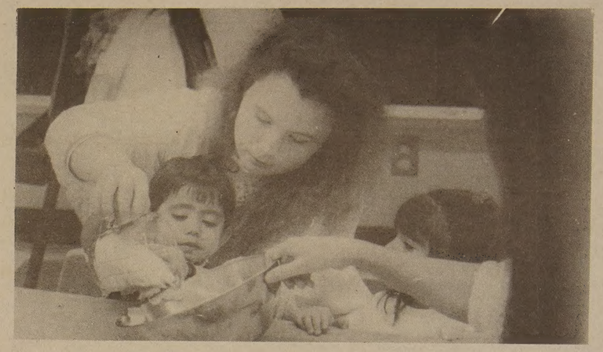
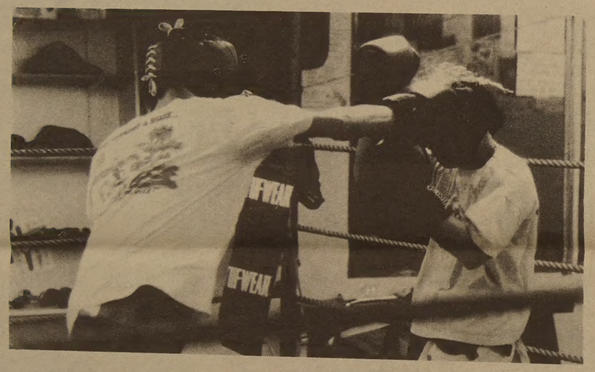


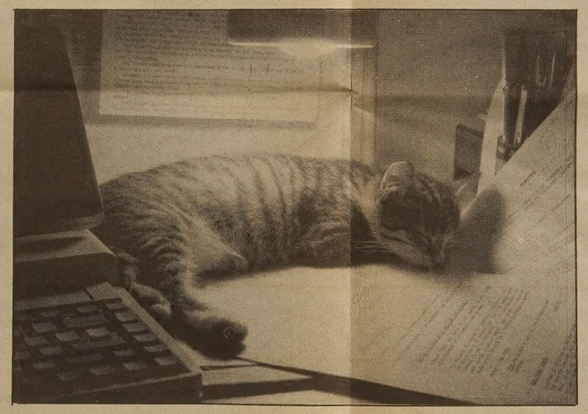
Diana Berardi, top winner, is presented with awards and prizes from Colourtron representative Dave Charlton.



First place human interest photo by Greg Kelly



Second place sports photo by Keith Hobbs



First place wild shot photo by Stuart McDonald

Second place human interest photo by Tom Brank

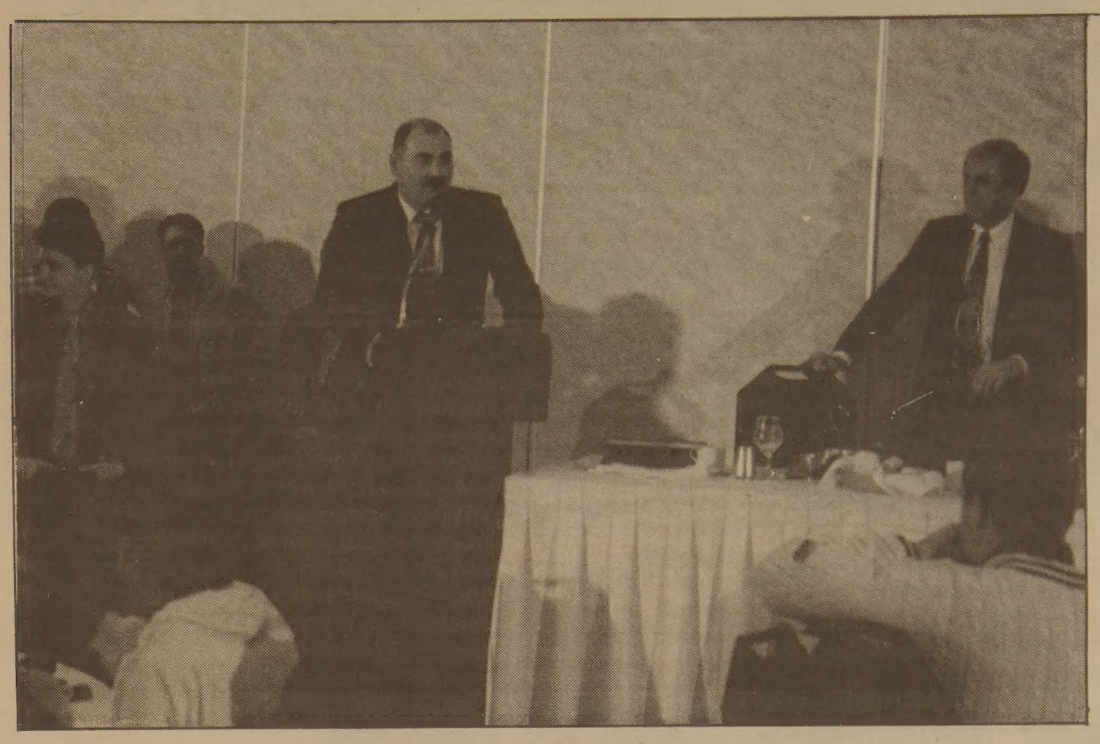
Third place sports photo by Monika Queckenstedt

Second place wild shot photo by Diana Berardi

Third place wild shot photo by Charlie Koscak

Third place human relations photo by Tom Brank

Top athletes honored at banquet



Niagara Knights hockey coach Fred Bassi (centre) speaks to athletes attending the college's 25th annual athletic banquet on March 29 at the Ameri-Cana hotel in Niagara Falls. Bassi received a plaque in recognition of his hard work during his coaching career at Niagara College.
Photo by Darryl Smart

By DARRYL SMART
Staff Writer

The top athletes from Niagara College were honored at the athletic banquet held at the Ameri-Cana hotel in Niagara Falls, Ont., on March 29.

Pete Rylander, the college's athletic director, was the master of ceremonies for the annual event. This was the 25th edition of the banquet.

The event began with dinner at the Ameri-Cana hotel. During his talk, Rylander said he was "very impressed" with the showing of Niagara College's teams over the past season.

Ontario Collegiate Athletic Association (OCAA) silver medals went to the curling and hockey teams, while the touch football team's winning a gold were just a few Niagara College team honors. OCAA team of the week honors went to the touch football and women's volleyball teams.

OCAA also recognized several Niagara College students as players of the week at various times of the past year. Dan MacNab and Merv Wrighton of the touch football team, Dave Crane of the hockey team and Sean Ellis of the badminton team all earned the award.

OCAA all-stars were chosen at the season's end for each sport. Niagara Knights receiving this honor were Paul Grummett of the men's basketball team, Jim Konrad of the men's volleyball team and Pete Lachance of the hockey team.

Niagara College had its own awards to give out. Most valuable players, athletes of distinction, freshman of the year and athletes of the year were honored.

Most valuable player candidates were Pete Lachance of the hockey team, Tammy Forrester of the women's volleyball team, Cam Bell of the men's basketball team and Jim Konrad of the men's volleyball team.

Athletes of distinction awards went to Forrester, Brent Roszell of the men's volleyball team, Bell, MacNab, Frank Keltos of the men's basketball team, Pat Skuta of the hockey team and John Anger who played hockey and touch football.

Freshman of the year awards went to Brian Dunn and Joanna Collins. Athletes of the year recognition went to Pete Lachance, Sean Ellis and Tammy Forrester.

Niagara College presented school letters to a number of students. The recipients were: Phil Grant, Irene Thompson, Tara Parliament, Tara Lochhead, Kelly Rutherford, Amy Charko, Forrester, Jennifer MacMillan, Laurie Shipp, Donnell Stayzer, Brent Roszell, Donald Schantz, John Nicholoson, Dan MacNab, Frank Keltos, Pat Skuta, John Anger and Mike Emond.

Dunn, of St. Catharines, was a member of the men's volleybball team. He is a Law and Security Administration program student.

Collins also is a Law and Security Administration program student. She was a member of the women's volleyball team.

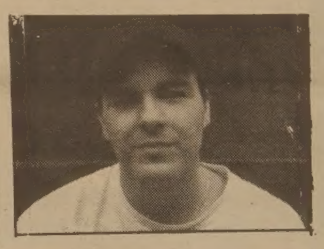
Ellis is a second-year LASA program student. He won his second consecutive OCAA badminton gold medal. Ellis represented Ontario at the Canadian College Badminton Championships. In 1992-93, he had a sixth place finish and this year he improved to fourth place.

Lachance, a LASA program student, joined the Niagara Knights hockey team this season. He was the team's top scorer, leading the Knights to a silver medal.

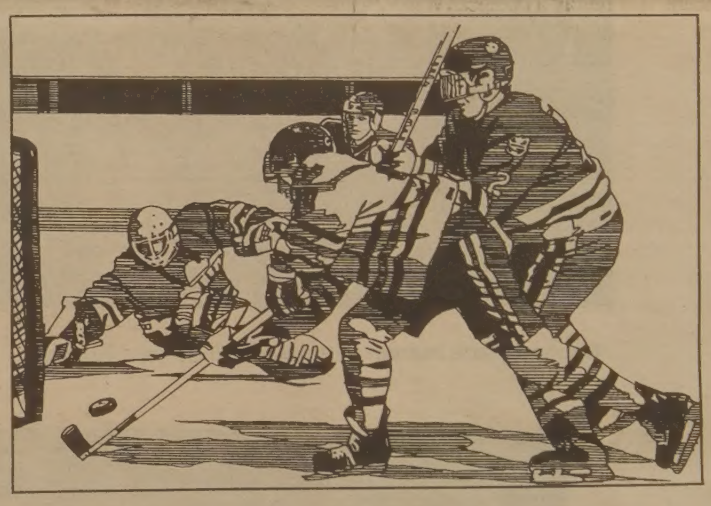
Forrester, a second-year Fashion Merchandising/ Visual Promotions program student, was the women's volleyball team's leader. She was awarded her second consecutive athletic scholarship award.

In closing remarks, Rylander praised all of the college's athletes.

Last month was madness in NHL



By DARRYL SMART
Staff Writer



A series of events have taken place in March to give the NHL its own March Madness

March has the distinction for being called March Madness because of the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) basketball tournament, unless you follow the National Hockey League (NHL).

A series of events have taken place in March to give the NHL its own March Madness.

Cam Neely of the Boston Bruins has had a brilliant comeback season. But sadly, that came falling down March 20 when Neely went into the boards heavily, tearing a ligament in his knee. The injury has sidelined the 50-goal scorer for the remainder of the season and most likely the playoffs.

Neely's fantastic season suddenly stopped with 50 goals and 24 assists in only 49 games. Neely was regarded as a leading contender for the Hart Trophy, given to the NHL's most valuable player.

Canadian Olympian Petr Nedved signed with the St. Louis Blues as a free agent. But because of Nedved's signing, the Blues were to give Vancouver compensation in exchange for Nedved. A deal was not completed between Vancouver and St. Louis, so an arbitrator was hired by the NHL to settle the conflict. Vancouver was awarded Craig Janney. After the deal was completed, it was learned that Janney didn't want to report to the Canucks.

One day in March will be remembered as the busiest trade deadline day in NHL history. March 21 saw a record 17 transactions take place. One of these trades meant the end of the Janney soap opera. Janney was traded back to the Blues in exchange for Jeff Brown, Bret Hedican and Nathan Lafyette.

March was also the month for suspensions. Tim Hunter and Sergio Momesso of the Vancouver Canucks were suspended for swinging their sticks. Both incidents happened in the same game.

Six Hartford Whalers players were arrested in Buffalo March 24. Pat Verbeek, Geoffrey Sanderson, Marc Potvin, Chris Pronger, Mark Janssens and Todd Harkins, along with assistant coach Kevin McCarthy, were arrested after a brawl broke out at a bar. The incident happened at Jim Kelly's bar in downtown Buffalo.

Finally Wayne Gretzky closed out March Madness by scoring NHL goal 802. Gretzky surpassed boyhood idol Gordie Howe to become the NHL's all-time leading scorer.

March 1994 will definitely be remembered as a month of March Madness.

Awards given to Niagara sports stars

By HEATH ANDERSON
Staff Writer

Niagara College held its 25th annual sports banquet to honor the best in sports. The festivities were held at the Ameri-Cana Hotel in Niagara Falls, Ont.

Once again there was no shortage of talent this year as has been common in years past.

Many athletes were also awarded school letters to symbolize their dedication to college sports.

Besides the previous awards, special awards were given for male and female athletes of the year, as well as the same award for freshman. Individual awards were also presented for athletes who performed well enough to be recognized by the Ontario College Academic Association (OCAA).

The athletes voted as most valuable were:

Pete Lachance, hockey, and Sean Ellis, badminton, - senior co most-valuable players.

Tammy Forrester, volleyball, senior female most valuable player.

Freshman Athletes of the year:

Brian Dunn, volleyball, and Joanna Collins, women's volleyball.

OCAA awards were received by:

Dan MacNab, touch football, Merv Wrighton, touch football, Dave Crane, hockey, and Sean Ellis, badminton.

Athletes of Distinction were:

Tammy Forrester, women's volleyball, Brent Roszell, men's volleyball, Cam Bell, men's basketball, Dan MacNab, touch football and men's basketball, Frank Keltos, men's basketball, John Anger, hockey and touch football and Pat Skuta, hockey.

The following students were awarded school letters for their contributions to school sports: Phil Grant, Irene Thompson, Tara Parliament, Kelly Rutherford, Amy Charko, Tammy Forrester, Jennifer MacMillan, Laurie Shipp, Donnell Stayzer, Brent Roszell, Donald Schantz, John Nicholson, Dan MacNab, Frank Keltos, Pat Skuta, John Anger, Mike Emond, Rob LeMaitre.

Coach Bassi leaving hockey on a high note

By TONY DI MARCO
Staff Writer

An era has come to an end.

Fred Bassi, 48, a physical education teacher at Niagara College, recently completed his 24th and final season as head coach of the Niagara College Knights men's hockey team.

Under his guidance, the team last month won an unexpected silver medal in the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA). Bassi, a three-time coach of the year award winner, now hands over the reins to Jim Beattie, the team's assistant coach.

Bassi, who previously coached Niagara College's tennis and touch football team, has had plenty of experience in hockey. Besides playing minor hockey, Bassi played in intermediate and senior leagues. Throughout his hockey career, Bassi describes himself as "an offensive player." When coaching, Bassi says he adopted this style of play as part of the team's philosophy.

One of his most-memorable seasons as head coach of Niagara College's hockey team was the 1990-91 season, when his team defeated the heavily-favored team from Penn State University in Pennsylvania 5-4 early in overtime to win the International Collegiate Hockey League (ICHL) championship after the team rallied to tie the score with one minute and 21 seconds left in the game.

Other memorable seasons included this past season and the 1986-87 season playing St. Bonaventure in the finals (St. Bonaventure had won the past four consecutive championships) and leading 6-2 beginning the third period only to lose 8-7 in overtime.

A 25-game season (including exhibition games), travel time and practices account for about 15 hours a week outside of college time for Bassi. Yet, he says he has "no regrets" about coaching. He says he has "given enough" and doesn't feel he can bring anything else to the team. However, Bassi will remain responsible for the team and will handle the business aspects.

As for next season, Bassi says the team is losing a few good offensive players but has a "good nucleus of returning players. Anything can happen in the playoffs," he says.

Leafs look strong

By MICHAEL MUCAKI
Staff Writer

Is it possible the Montreal Canadiens and the Toronto Maple Leafs are going to meet in the National Hockey League's Stanley Cup finals this year? It's possible, but I don't think so.

In the Western Conference, the Calgary Flames, St. Louis Blues, Detroit Red Wings and the Toronto Maple Leafs should advance to the quarter-finals, but keep a close eye on the Dallas Stars, Chicago Blackhawks and the Vancouver Canucks.

As long as the Toronto Maple Leafs maintain their work ethic, they should make it to the semi-finals. If the Red Wings finish second or third in the Western Conference, they should be able to join the Maple Leafs in the semi-finals, but if the Red Wings finish first, then the St. Louis Blues should be able to upset the Wings.

The Leafs should be able to handle the Red Wings, or the Blues, in seven games. Therefore, I predict the Leafs will make it to the finals for the first time since 1967.

Before the Rangers made three major trades on the trade deadline, I would have predicted a Ranger-Leaf final, but now I feel they will be ousted in the first round no matter who they play. Even Coach Mike Keenan's expert advice will not be able to save them.

New Jersey, Pittsburgh, and Montreal should be able to join whoever the Rangers play.

Montreal and New Jersey should be able to make the semi-finals and entertain us with a seven-game series. The Devils should be able to prevail in overtime.

The Stanley Cup should be a classic with two excellent goalies in net in Chris Terreri for the Devils and Felix Potvin for the Leafs.

Wendel Clark, Dave Andreychuk, Mike Gartner and Doug Gilmour will provide the offence for the Leafs and Stephane Richer, John MacLean, Scott Stevens and Bernie Nicholls will provide most of the offence for the Devils.

Defence should be the story of the series. Who has the best defence? With veterans like Jamie Macoun, Sylvain Lefebvre and Dave Ellett, the Leafs should prevail.

My prediction: the Leafs will win the Stanley Cup in six games.

Athletes earn their large salaries

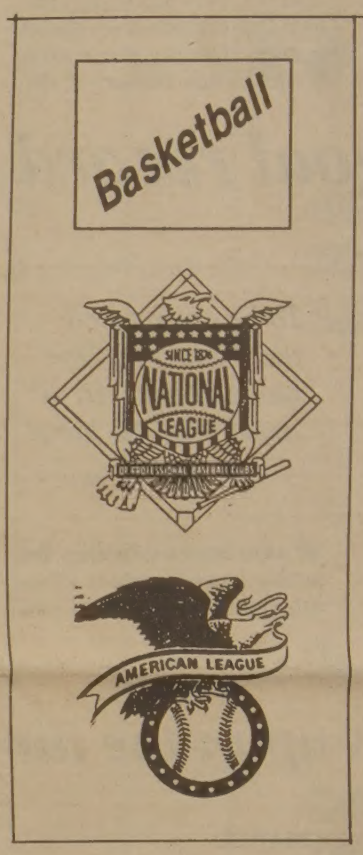
By TONY DI MARCO
Staff Writer

With baseball season under way, talk of athletes signing lucrative contracts in the off-season continues to instigate debate. People can't understand why athletes earn so much.

Many side with owners who say athletes are greedy, overpaid and selfish. However, one must consider sport as a business rather than a game to comprehend the legitimacy of athletes' salaries.

Owners of sports teams are entrepreneurs in the entertainment business. They compete among themselves and other types of entertainment for your dollar. One must not be so naive as to think an investor purchases a $60 million-sports franchise simply because he/she likes the team. It is purely a business venture. Teams are bought, sold or broken into shares.

Owning a sports franchise has an enormous potential for earning profit. Fan attendance, sales from memorabilia, the sale for rights of the team logo, television contracts and collecting a percentage of player endorsements produce hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue annually.



An owner's expenses (for example - players and employees' salaries, travel expenses, and rental of the building) pale in comparison to the revenue. This is why owners of sports teams become some of the richest people in North America. For example, Mike Illitch owns the Detroit Red Wings, Detroit Tigers and Little Caesar's Pizza.

A team's success at the box office (attendance) relies heavily on the team's success in the standings. The better the product on the field, the more response you get from customers.

Would the Toronto Blue Jays continue to sell-out games if they were in last place? Probably not. This is why the Blue Jays have one of the largest payrolls in baseball. If this is the case, then is it not a player's performance on the field which directly affects the success of the team and indirectly affects the number of fans in attendance?

The Orlando Magic have sold twice as many season tickets since drafting Shaquille O'Neal.

Should a player not be financially rewarded for having an impact on the team and generating increased revenue? If the players don't get the money, the owners will.

Therefore, athletes aren't simply being paid for their athletic ability, but for their ability to generate fan interest.

Niagara's sports banquet honors coach Bassi

By DAVE CRANE
Staff Writer

The 25th annual Niagara College athletic banquet ended what was a dream season for the men's varsity hockey club.

The banquet, which was held March 29 at the Ameri-Cana Hotel in Niagara Falls, hosted about 100 people from college teams and gave them a chance to come together for one last night to reflect on team and personal accomplishments.

"A good time was had by all who attended," said Peter Rylander, director of the college's athletic department. "It was very comparable to other successful banquets we've had in the past."

For the hockey club, the night was a recognition of the team's successful season. It was the first time the team was reunited since winning the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) silver medal on March 12.

"The camaraderie on this team is great. It was good to all be together again," said John Anger, 22, a second-year Law and Security Administration (LASA) student, the recipient of a School Letter, Athlete of Distinction Award and the college's only double-medal winner.

"Tonight we were treated to a first-class evening, the same way we were treated all year by the college," he said.

The night was also filled with emotion for Fred Bassi, retiring from coaching men's hockey this year. He was presented with a plaque commemorating his 24 years as coach. Bassi, glossy-eyed with emotion, gave thanks to the athletic department for the opportunity to coach and wished future teams success.

"People can't understand how much Fred meant to this team. He taught us to play with emotion, desire and pride. We wanted to win for him," said Pete Lachance, 21, a second-year LASA student, who was named team most-valuable player and was a co-winner of the Male Athlete of the Year. Lachance said he felt "honored" by receiving all the "big awards" but shared the accomplishment by thanking all the team members for their support.

'People can't understand how much Fred meant to this team'

Pete Lachance

For two-year veteran and team captain Pat Skuta, the night was also special. Skuta, 22, a third-year LASA student, said he noticed the team beginning to gel at mid-season and pointed to a difference in attitude as the biggest improvement from year to year.

"This team had a competitive attitude and with Fred's plan to retire, it gave us more incentive to win," said Skuta. "For many of us, including Fred, it was our last chance at a championship. It felt great to do so well, both for ourselves and for Fred."

"The plaque presentation was a nice tribute to Fred's dedication to the hockey program," said Dave Boulton, 20, a first-year General College program student.

Mike Emond, 21, a Human Relations program student and two-year veteran of the hockey club, was sad to see Bassi's era of coaching come to an end.

"We will miss Fred behind the bench, I was happy to see him honored tonight," he said.

The Great One becomes the Greatest of all

By DARRYL SMART
Staff Writer

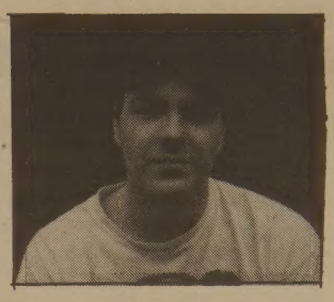
The Great One has become the Greatest.

Wayne Gretzky, 33, of Brantford, Ont., has become the National Hockey League's (NHL) all-time leading scorer.

It took the Great One 15 years and two teams to break the record. Gretzky played with the Edmonton Oilers until being traded to the Los Angeles Kings in 1989.

The Los Angeles Kings forward became the NHL's greatest scorer on March 23, before a capacity crowd in Inglewood, Calif.

Gretzky's record-breaking tally of 802 came against



Vancouver Canucks netminder Kirk Maclean with 5:13 left in the second period. Getting the assist on the record breaker was Gretzky's old Edmonton Oiler teammate Marty McSorley.

Oct. 14, 1979 was the day the Great One started his voyage to greatness. Gretzky put a wrist shot past Glen Hanlon of the Canucks to score his first NHL goal.

On Dec. 30, 1981, Gretzky again made history. The Great One scored five goals in one game to reach 50 goals in only 39 games played. It was the first time any player had reached the 50-goal plateau in so few games.

Later in the 1981 season, Gretzky scored on Don Edwards of the Buffalo Sabres. This three-goal performance surpassed Phil Esposito's single season scoring record of 76 goals. Gretzky ended the season with a miraculous 92 goals.

On Nov. 22, 1986, Gretzky scored career-goal 500. The Great One's victim for this goal was the Vancouver Canucks' empty net.

Goal number 600 was in Detroit, Mich. This goal was scored against boyhood friend and teammate Greg Stefan of the Detroit Red Wings.

When goaltenders see Gretzky's name on the program, many start to sweat. The goaltenders that sweat the most are those who have been his victims. The goaltenders victimized most by Gretzky are Richard Brodeur of Vancouver and Mike Liut of St. Louis, Hartford and Washington. Each goaltender has allowed 29 goals scored by the Great One. Other victims are Greg Millen of St. Louis and Chicago as well as Don Beaupre of Minnesota and currently Washington. Each allowed 21 Gretzky goals.

Gretzky has made a career out of breaking and even shattering records in the NHL. After 61 broken records, this renowned playmaker has become the NHL's ultimate scoring machine.

Gretzky's goal record shows he's only one-dimensional

By TONY DI MARCO
Staff Writer

Should a one-dimensional player really be considered the "Greatest One?"

When Wayne Gretzky broke Gordie Howe's record of 801 career goals against the Vancouver Canucks, reporters across the continent acclaimed Gretzky the "Greatest One."

There is no doubt Gretzky is the greatest offensive player to put on skates. However, there

To be considered the "Greatest One" he must excel in all aspects of the game

are more aspects of hockey than putting the puck in the net. Does a third-line centre have the same opportunities to score as the players ahead of him? Probably not, but he can perform his role as a checker to perfection and still wouldn't receive any media coverage.

Hockey is a team sport. Every player on the team has a role to play. Some to score, some to check and some to stop the puck. Gretzky's role was to score. Surely he never had to go into the corners to dig the puck out. When a game became physical, Dave Semenko became

There are more aspects to hockey than putting the puck in the net

Gretzky's bodyguard. Gretzky isn't known for having a hard shot or blazing speed. He isn't known for scoring on breakaways or his defensive play.

So why is he considered the "Greatest One?" Because sports fans have put an emphasis on statistics. If the team is winning games and Gretzky isn't accumulating points, people begin to question his play.

For a player to be considered the "Greatest One," he/she must excel in all aspects of the game. Leadership, skills and an understanding of the game are characteristics of a great player. Gretzky is an amazing player, but a Cam Neely or Jeremy Roenick better exemplifies the characteristics of a "Greatest One."

NBA playoffs up in the air

By TONY DI MARCO
Staff Writer

Since the retirement of Michael Jordan from the Chicago Bulls, there no longer remains a clear-cut favorite team to win the National Basketball Association (NBA) title.

Even the most dominant teams (New York, Atlanta, Seattle, Phoenix and Houston) can be defeated on any given night. Although the increased level of competition would make for an exciting season of basketball, enthusiasm for the NBA has seemed to dwindle. Luckily for the NBA, the playoffs are just around the corner.

Here's a preview of how the NBA playoffs should stack up:

Atlantic Division

The N.Y. Knicks are a tough team at home and boast the best defence in the league. With home-court advantage throughout the playoffs, the Knicks should face little opposition until the Eastern Conference finals against the Atlanta Hawks.

Central Division

The departure of Dominique Wilkins (the heart and soul of the team since 1982) makes the Atlanta Hawks vulnerable to an upset. Who do they go to in the clutch? Nevertheless, the Hawks are among the elite teams in the NBA and have the potential to knock off the Knicks.

Midwest Division

The Houston Rockets aren't as good as people think. The Rocket's weak bench can be exploited which may allow the San Antonio Spurs to win the division. However, don't expect any team in this division to win the NBA title.

Pacific Division

The Seattle Supersonics have quietly become the NBA's best team. George Karl, head coach of the Supersonics, will finally get the respect and media coverage he feels his team deserves when his team appears in the NBA finals, only to lose to the N.Y. Knicks in a heartbreaking loss in the seventh game of a spectactular series.

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MacNiel tuning up CRNC

By TREVOR OBEE
Staff Writer

Norm MacNiel is helping reshape Niagara College's campus radio station.

MacNiel, a second-year student in the Broadcasting-Radio/Television/Film program, was appointed program director of CRNC in January. MacNiel has been a major influence in CRNC's image re-positioning.

"When I got the job, I thought CRNC should be more student oriented," MacNiel says, "so programming reflected the students' ideas and opinions. We had to develop our own identity."

With the help of Pauline LeBrun, CRNC's music director, more college oriented music was programmed. Instead of the old top-40 format, CRNC started playing bands like Lowest of the Low, Cracker and others MacNiel describes as "not quite mainstream, but with potential."

The same has been done with all areas of CRNC's programming — news, sports, special events — to the extent MacNiel says he feels CRNC has truly become the students' voice at Niagara College.

"The biggest problem we have now," MacNiel says, "is students come in and complain that they want to hear what we're doing, but can't because we're not loud enough in the halls."

In past years, CRNC was forced to turn down the operating volume because staff throughout the college complained the station was too loud.

MacNiel says in the short time he's been program director, he feels he's been successful. "But it's just the beginning," he says. "September's going to be very different, because we'll be at the point a college station should be at."

MacNiel says the two people who helped him the most are broadcasting students LeBrun and promotions director Lisa Mercer. However, MacNiel was quick to point out "everyone at the station is working hard to make it a go."

Some special programming MacNiel is looking forward to in April are **'Twisted Tuesdays'** and **'Freaky Fridays'**. Days, MacNiel says, "where the music is heavier and you just don't know what's going to happen."

MacNiel says he wants to see a closed-circuit feed installed in After Hours for next year. "It's important to the growth of CRNC for us to have the After Hours audience, even if only for an hour or so every day."

MacNiel says he is also a supporter of working more closely with other student media and student government.

"We can't all work independently," he says. "We have to work together if we want to be successful."

Free 'Willy' at the movies

By WILLY NOILES
Staff Writer

Having made over $200 million at the box-office, *Mrs. Doubtfire* is scheduled for an April 26 video release. It will be available in your local video store at a cost of $24.98 or less.

If you haven't already seen *Mrs. Doubtfire*, you're in for a treat. Robin Williams is letter-perfect as a separated father dressing as an English nanny to spend time with his family.

Sally Field is miscast as the ex-wife, and Harvey Fierstein is under utilized as Williams' brother, but few films are perfect.

For a companion piece, rent *Tootsie* with Dustin Hoffman.

Another good film coming to video during the summer is *Philadelphia*. A recent winner of two Oscars (Best Actor - Tom Hanks, Best Song - *Streets of Philadelphia* by Bruce Springsteen), this is Hollywood's first mainstream film dealing with AIDS.

Hanks, justifiably, earned his Oscar for his portrayal of a man dying of AIDS while fighting a wrongful dismissal suit.

Although the film presents a perfect family (like The Waltons tackle AIDS) I found hard to swallow, and a very sketchy relationship between Hanks and Antonio Banderas, Hanks, director Jonathan Demme, and screenwriter Ron Nyswaner deserve three cheers for a solid effort.

For a related film dealing with AIDS, rent *Longtime Companion* with Campbell Scott and Oscar-nominated Bruce Davison.

Other Oscar-nominated films coming to video are:

The Piano (Best Actress, Supporting Actress, Screenplay) - May 25.

Remains of the Day - May 4.

In The Name of the Father, Shadowlands - both in June.

Farewell My Concubine - April 13.

Schindler's List (reviewed this week) is anticipated for a mid-summer release, but let's not hold our breath. Spielberg may try to get more box-office receipts out of it.

But Spielberg is releasing *Jurassic Park* in October at a sale price of $26.99.

Til next time, Happy Viewing!

Schindler's List - a 'powerful' film

By MICHAEL MUCAKI
Staff Writer

Schindler's List is a powerful and touching film which shows hundreds of Jews dying.

The movie, produced and directed by Steven Spielberg, recently opened in Welland, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls.

Schindler's List, which lasts three hours and 15 minutes, recently won seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director for Spielberg.

Based on a true story, the movie shows great compassion from Oskar Schindler. Now recognized as a hero, Schindler is shown as a great man.

Played by Liam Neeson, Schindler was at first a businessman out to make money, but saw what was happening and became a warm-hearted man who would do his best to save all the Jews he could.

Schindler's partner, a Jew, played by Ben Kingsley, helped Schindler find Jews to work in his factory. At first, there were 350 Jews working for Schindler. He realized he was saving their lives even though he was still concerned about his business.

One German soldier named Amon Goeth, played by Ralph Finnes, was most noticeable in the movie. Goeth was a heartless and ruthless man, who, in the movie, killed innocent bystanders for no other reason than the person taking a one-minute break.

Goeth, who talked to Schindler throughout the second half of the movie, told him how great it was to kill an innocent Jew and how no Jews should still be alive.

In the movie, Schindler kisses two Jews at his birthday party and, as a result, he spends a couple of days in prison.

Don't dare miss this movie! It is worth the $4.25 admission.

This movie is rated 10 out of 10.

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Opening doors focus at Career Expo

By TAMMY CROCKER
Staff Writer

Opening doors to future careers will be the focus of Career Expo 1994.

The Expo will be sponsored by the Greater Welland Chamber of Commerce, Human Resources Canada, and a number of local companies and organizations, including Niagara College.

It is the first career Expo for the city and will be held at the Welland Arena from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on May 3, 4 and 5.

The event is intended for high school students, teachers, parents, people interested in a career change, university and college graduates and career counsellors.

"You have so many people laid off . . . they are looking for something to do," said Randy Conlon, media/liaison officer at Niagara College.

More than 60 exhibits will provide insight and information about future employment trends, innovative technologies and details about education and training requirements. Business and industry will have an opportunity to profile career trends within their organizations. A number of Niagara College staff will be asked to be presenters for workshops.

Niagara College will have two booths at the Expo; one featuring jobsOntario Training and the other with information about all college programs.

The Marketing and Communications department at the college will have one staff person there, but encourages representatives from other departments to be on hand to promote their own programs.

"Here is your chance to talk with representatives from career preparation services, education and training, job search organizations and employers from business and industry — all under one roof," said Kelly Zorich, co-ordinator for Career Expo '94.

A schedule of shifts is being organized, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Co-ordinators of the programs at Niagara College may contact Conlon at ext. 7448 if they are interested in assisting at the Career Expo.

Paul Holmes

The best of LASA

By TAMMY CROCKER
Staff Writer

Niagara College's Law and Security Administration (LASA) program can bring out the best in some people. Paul Holmes is one such person.

Holmes, 23, a second-year LASA student, is not only fascinated with the law, but he has a head start in his field as a customs officer.

"I enjoy customs because it deals with international law," said Holmes, who works Fridays and Saturdays at the Rainbow Bridge in Niagara Falls, Ont.

Holmes, a native Welland resident, is married and has a one-year-old son, David. Holmes attended a French-speaking school making him fluent in the language.

"My role model was always my parents," said Holmes. His mother is a teacher and his father worked at Atlas Steel in Welland.

Holmes originally went to Ottawa University to study art when he became interested in the law, thanks to a friend studying to be a lawyer. Now he can't get enough of law.

"The more education you have regarding the law, the more respect and appreciation you have for it," said Holmes. He would like to strive for a more fair and equitable way of applying law according to each individual need and circumstance.

So why choose customs as opposed to the other law-related fields? Holmes said he wanted to be a police officer, but because he is color blind, the force would not accept him.

Holmes is lucky. Through the Career Oriented Summer Employment Program (COSEP), he can work weekends at the border while he attends school. During the summer, Holmes can work full-time at the border.

As long as Holmes stays in school, he is eligible to work through COSEP. To add to his promising career, Holmes will be returning to Niagara College in the fall to pick up sociology and human resources courses.

"I do not profess that my views on the law are necessarily those shared by others ... I do, however, believe in the law and its principles and feel that my experiences here at Niagara College have enhanced my perception and feelings regarding it," said Holmes.

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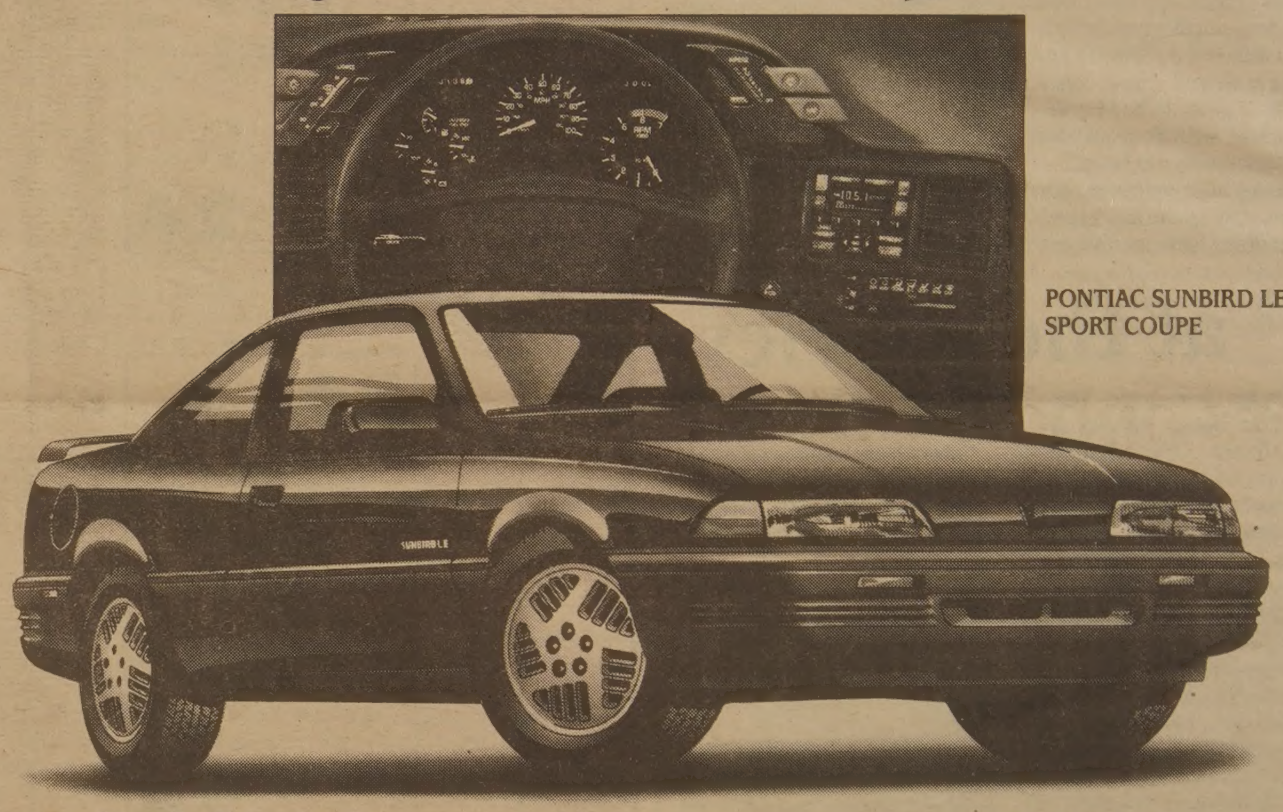

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Kurek new SAC president

By ELIZABETH MONSERE
Staff Writer

It takes "a social person" to hold a position on student council as vice-president social, says Bernie Kurek, 28, a first-year Law and Security Adminstration program student at Niagara College.

Kurek, born Nov 11. 1965 at the Greater Niagara General Hospital, has spent most of his life in the Niagara Region. He attended E.L. Crossely High School in Fonthill and received his high school diploma at 24. The reason he went back to school was to earn more money working as a plumber.

Kurek said he hated school. "I believed I had an attention deficiency."

He said he would rather be outside than sitting in a classroom. "I would rather be working today than be in school. I played high school sports because it gave me a reason to stay out of class.

"Since I've started at Niagara College I go to class because I want to be an immigration officer. I try my best and that is all you can ask for. I don't have a life outside of school. I would rather be working and have a life," he says.

Kurek said he never developed a close relationship with his family because of his age difference. He is the youngest in a family of six people.

"The relationship with my family was good until I met a girl my family did not approve. I was right and they were wrong, it's just the way I felt," says Kurek, who left home two days after his 16th birthday, and never returned.

Kurek says he shares a close relationship with his 37-year-old sister, Monika.

"We treat each other as equals, we both laugh and have fun, but we never argue. It upsets and makes me angry when someone says or does anything to my family," he says.

"My family is the only thing that I have in this world. They are mine. You are born with your family and you will die with your family and I strongly believe that," he says.

"When someone is making the same mistakes I did, it makes me reflect. The past is the past. I don't dwell on the past. I live every day as it comes," says Kurek, adding he plans each day.

This is his second year at Niagara College. He took the General College program in his first year because the LASA program had too many students.

"I have a longer temper but a bad temper and this is the reason why I don't want to be a police officer," says Kurek, who does not know where his future will take him.

"This school lost its organization and priorities of what student council is supposed to be doing. This is the reason why I am on student council to find out why," he says.

As vice-president social, Kurek interacts with Donna Flutur, the manager of After Hours.

He schedules enterainment during the day and at pub nights. Kurek is working on the Year-End Bash for the college. He is involved with student appeals as part of the responsibilities of being vice-president social.

'This school lost its organization and priorities of what student council is supposed to be doing. This is the reason why I am on student council to find out why. In the past SAC has been disorganized, but I hope in the future, as I take the position of being president, we will work as a team' Kurek, SAC president

"I saw a position on student council so I thought I would take it as vice-president social. I took the position because it's what I can do best. I love working and spending time with people that is why I am vice-president social."

On May 1, Kurek officially becomes president of student council. "In the past SAC has been disorganized, but I hope in the future, as I take the position of being president, we will work as a team," says Kurek, adding he enjoys his work.

At 16, Kurek started a trade - working as a plumber. It took him five years to receive his plumbing license. When Kurek was 24, he went back to high school to earn more money as a plumber. Having a high school diploma, enabled Kurek to earn an extra $4 an hour.

After seven years of working as a plumber, Kurek learned he had industrial dermititus, which is an allergy to certain kinds of metals. The disease is a skin condition on your hands. After three years of working with the skin condition, Kurek had to give up his trade.

"It was my life. I loved my job, but I had to put plumbing behind me in order to go on with my life," he says.

All Kurek wants now is to finish school and do his best as president of student council. As for the future, he says "what will be will be."

Program offers opportunities

By MICHAEL WALES
Staff Writer

Romuald Krajewski says during a recession, people must use their potential and strengths, even if it means changing careers.

Krajewski, who lives in St. Catharines with his wife, Alcja, and daughter, Isabella, came to Canada from Wroclaw, Poland in 1991.

In the three years since, Krajewski has completed both the English As a Second Language and Computer Software Application programs at Niagara College. Krajewski is now studying International Trade at the college's Niagara Falls campus.

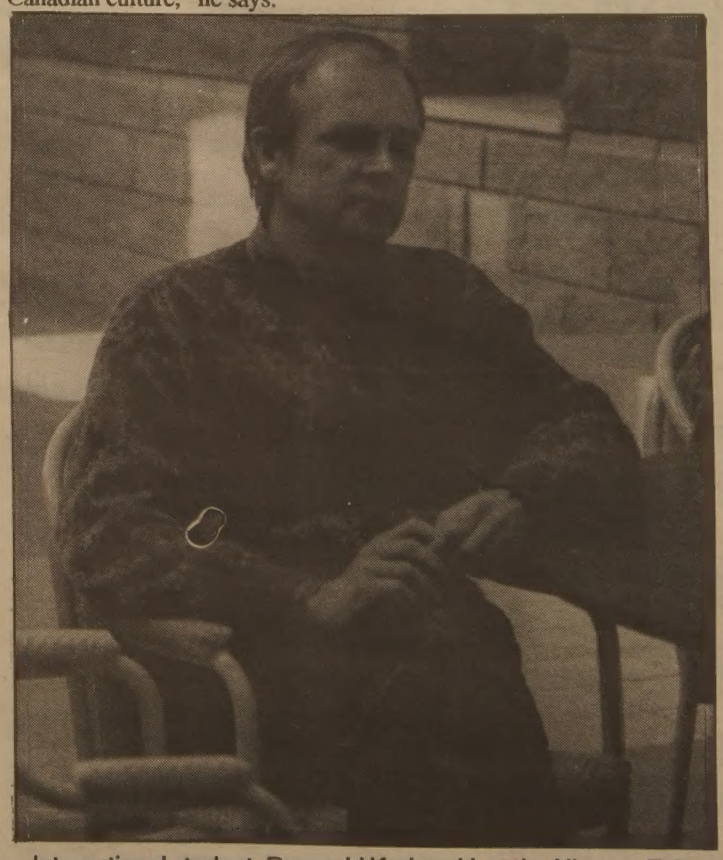
In 1971, Krajewski earned a degree in civil engineering from the Technical University of Wroclaw. He says most of his civil engineering experience came in environmental areas. Krajewski's last job in Poland was with a natural cosmetics firm, where he says he gained his first experience in the fields of marketing and retail trade.

Krajewski says his main reason for coming to Canada to study is his feeling that he has much to offer in the field of international trade, because of his knowledge of several different languages and cultures. Krajewski speaks Polish, Ukrainian, Russian and Czech.

Krajewski says he is impressed with Niagara College's International Trade program, which includes students from many different educational and cultural backgrounds. "The mix of Canadian and international students creates an excellent opportunity to share different cultural information and ideas," he says.

Krajewski says he enjoys living in Canada because of our multicultural system. "In Canada, each ethnic group has its input into Canadian culture," he says.

As for the future, Krajewski says anything is possible, although he eventually hopes to work with a Canadian company that trades in Europe. He says he has already been offered a job with a Polish company that trades in Canada.



International student, Romuald Krajewski, at the Niagara Falls campus.

Photo by Michael Wales

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Distance learning eventual reality

By SUE NOBLE
Staff Writer

Distance learning could be the solution for potential Niagara College students, says Brian Keppy, co-ordinator of the Prior Learning Assessment program at Niagara College.

"We don't have distance education at Niagara, although it's something that's been talked about and I think it probably will be introduced in connection with continuing education," he said.

Beyond the concept of distance learning is "timeless learning, which is an even more complicated factor," said Keppy, adding "what we're talking about doing is taking away the traditional classroom setting and allowing students to accumulate knowledge."

"You could accumulate it in a shorter period of time, or a longer period of time. To allow that to occur, it means that the materials you need to progress must be available to you. You can't wait for someone to give it to you. In other words, the package has to be made available and you can progress through it at your own pace. When you've gone through certain stages of it, you can do your testing and proceed to the next," he said.

Keppy said timeless learning goes beyond correspondence, which implies students do everything by mail.

The provincial college system is looking at a number of different possibilities. Television Ontario (TVO) uses distance learning, Keppy said. They do factual presentations that are non-interactive, where students are presented with the material, perhaps including a textbook, then there would be testing of that material. "It's just a block of information," Keppy said.

Another way to access distance education could be watching a television show and having a mentor or an adviser that students could telephone to get clarification, he said.

Keppy said there are distance education packages that are available in the United States, such as Empire College in Saratoga, N.Y., part of the State University of New York system, which has offices throughout New York.

'we're...taking away the traditional classroom setting.' Keppy

Live television broadcasts are used. A teacher would stand up and teach a course on a television broadcast, students would watch it at a specific time and then if they had questions, they would telephone into their mentors, Keppy said.

If they didn't have questions, they would, on a regular monthly basis, contact their mentor, attend Saturday morning seminars, give progress reports, make presentations, participate in group discussions and get tested at the regional office, Keppy said. "It's a much more interactive system."

Niagara College is recognizing there are a lot of potential students around the community who can't come to campuses for various reasons, Keppy said.

"Perhaps they don't have a car and transportation is expensive, or they have children and don't have enough money for a babysitter or day care. Perhaps they have a job and the hours vary and they can't guarantee they'll always be available for certain class time slots," he said.

One of the possibilities for the Ontario system, Keppy said, is affiliations with local cable channels, where an unused cable channel could be dedicated to the college for instruction.

It's possible students could come to the college, enrol and part of their tuition would be a deposit for a special convertor that would allow students to access that channel. If students don't enrol in the course they wouldn't be able to access that channel Keppy said.

"We could create an entire package, it could be a live broadcast by a teacher, that would be taped so that it could be replayed at later intervals," said Keppy.

Colorful Kormos visits Niagara

By MICHAEL MUCAKI
Staff Writer

Health care costs a lot of money and Ontario taxpayers can't receive benefits without helping to pay, says Peter Kormos, MPP for St. Catharines, Thorold and Welland.

"You can't have both. If you want health care you have to pay for it," the local MPP told about 50 politics students at Niagara College on March 25.

Kormos said it is important to maintain Canada's health care plan. He said the people of Canada "will always need it (health care)."

During his talk, he also touched on welfare cuts, happenings at Queen's Park and changes within the New Democratic Party.

Kormos said college tuition will be going up 10 per cent this fall. He also discussed how the government is discussing removing cigarette vending machines from bars and restaurants.

"On the issue of welfare cuts, the caucus acted in a very hostile way. Unfortunately that hostility did not increases," he said, adding "the tuition is going up only $100 for college and only $200 for university students."

Kormos said it will be tougher for parents to send their children to college.

"Parents are getting mortages to pay off their children's tuition. There are students who don't have parents, scrambling to get the extra money," said Kormos, adding students have to work extra hours just to pay off tuition.

"There will be another 10 per cent increase the following year for tuition. It is mentally contradictory to everything the NDP ever believed in," said Kormos.

"It was one of the highlights of the course, and it was satisfying to see one of our local politicians supporting college learning," said Tom Busnarda, a politics teacher at Niagara College.

Busnarda is planning a trip for his politics class to visit Queen's Park in Toronto on Thursday, April 15. About 40 students are expected to go on the trip.

'Blaze'-ing the teaching trail

By KARIN KEIR
Staff Writer

Chances are he's caught your attention.

Possibly you've admired his endless collection of flamboyant medallions and rings. Perhaps you've exchanged glances with him in the halls of the Simcoe building between classes.

If you're lucky, you've experienced his lectures. His name is George Alexander Blazetich and he is almost indisputably an inspiration to every Niagara College student fortunate enough to meet him.

Blazetich, claiming "active middle age," earned an honors degree in history followed by a master of history and arts from McMaster University in Hamilton.

After completing his bachelor of education from the University of Toronto, he left for an eight-month tour of Europe exercising his belief that "travel is the best graduate school of the world." In Europe, Blazetich learned of, applied for and received, a teaching position with Niagara College in Welland in August 1969.

"All I really know how to do is teach," he said in an interview last week. "I can make grammar just as exciting as Hitler," he says.

With 25 years of teaching experience, ranging from designing and developing the modern history course for Niagara College to sabbaticals at the University of Budapest, Blazetich is fluent in English and Hungarian, with a "working knowledge" of four other languages.

For many students, Blazetich seems a fountain of knowledge, eager and willing to shower all who wish to bathe in his teachings.

But, it's not what Blazetich is teaching that entices his students to make each class, rather it is how he teaches.

An "immaculate and moving" public speaker, Blazetich stands at the head of his class and "steals his students' attention without them even noticing," says Eric Schmidt, 23, a General College student. "To watch him teach is exciting, the learning part is almost incidental."

Blazes' (as he's called by admiring students) talent of inspiring students is not a gift, though it's something he says he works hard to do well.

"I instil a love of learning, a love of the process of learning. I try to be outrageous," he says.

Whatever it is he's doing, he's doing it well. Just ask his students.

SAC election coming soon

The Student Administrative Council (SAC) election for position of vice-president social affairs is just around the corner.

The postion is the only one requiring an election. The positions of president, executive vice-president, vice presidents of internal and external affairs and vice president athletics were all acclaimed.

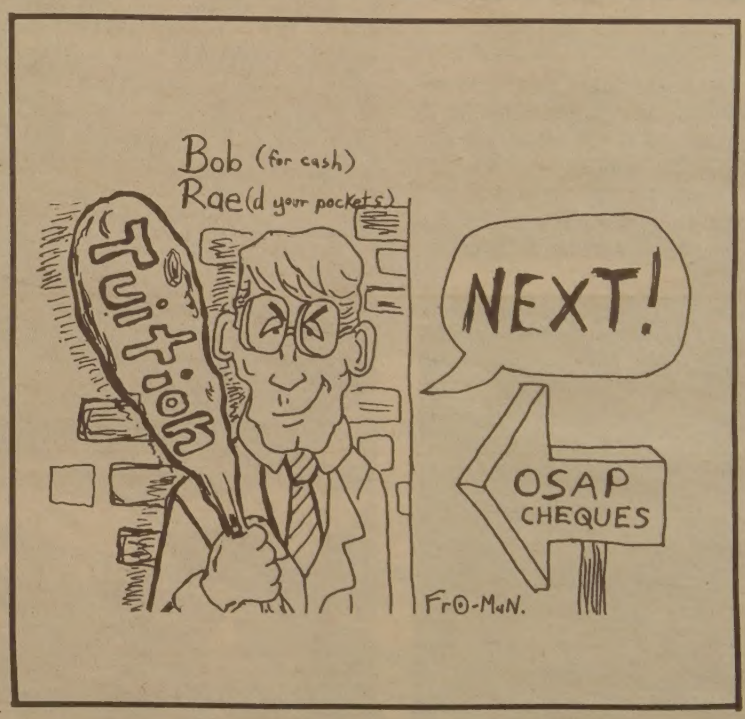
The candidates are journalism student and current executive vice-president Trevor Obee and his opponent, human relations student Linda Shuart.

Shuart is the cirriculum representative for the Human Relations program and is running on the platform of maturity and responsibility.

Obee is running on a platform of past accomplishments on SAC, including raising student awareness and participation by 20 per cent since taking office in December and improving SAC's media relations with campus media at Niagara College. Obee was elected vice-president of internal affairs when former vice-president social Brad Billard resigned. Obee was appointed executive vice-president in January when four members of SAC were ousted, three because of marks.

The election will be held Tuesday, April 19, in the counselling office, ME103. Students can vote between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Students must have their Niagara College student card to vote..



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Fiji to Niagara, English teacher lives full life

By MICHAEL MUCAKI
Staff Writer

Teaching is what she loves doing.

Elaine Gardner, 27, from St. Catharines, started teaching in September 1990 in Fiji in the South Pacific. "When I went to Fiji I fell in love with teaching," she said.

"I love teaching adults." She teaches English as a Second Language at the Multi-Cultural Centre in St. Catharines, as well as teaching English at Niagara College at night in Welland.

"Sometimes I go out with my classmates to the coffee shop," she said. "I think it is important to keep a good relation between the student and the teacher, I enjoy working with immigrants because I'm an immigrant too," said Gardner.

In her spare time, she said she enjoys playing tennis, horseback riding, canoeing, wilderness camping and cross-country skiing. She also loves to travel and write letters.

Gardner owned a horse until last year, when she injured her back. Although she still goes horseback riding, she has slowed down.

"In the summer I will hopefully be canoeing in Pennsylvania," said Gardner. She enjoys canoeing in white-water. "It is a lot more exciting than canoeing in normal conditions." She will be canoeing again in the spring. Her dream is to canoe on the Nahanni River in Northwest Territories.

Gardner enjoys reading books. Her favorite book is *Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy Maud Montgomery. James Herriot, who is Gardner's favorite author, writes books on life as a veterinarian during the war years. Gardner said she likes reading mysteries and historical books.

'I enjoy working with immigrants, because I'm an immigrant too.'

In music, Gardner said she likes all types from rock and folk to even classical. Her favorite group right now is The Proclaimers.

Gardner said she belongs to two organizations. She is a member of Wilderness Canoes Association (WCA), based in Toronto, and a member of Canadian Crossroads International's local committee, a non-denominational, non-government, non-profit organization which helps Third World development. She went to Fiji as a C.C.I. volunteer. She was co-coordinator of the fund raising campaign.

Gardner has lived in many other cities, including Glasgow, Scotland; Philadelphia, Montreal, and London, Ont.

She said she loves to travel and plans to see the world.

Gardner was on many sport teams in high school, including rowing, badminton and cross country running.

Gardner is a graduate from Brock University in 1990 and received a combined honors degree in Urban/Environment Studies and Physical Geography. She returned to Brock after being in Fiji to acquire a second degree, a bachelor of education in Teaching English as a Second Language.

Gardner said she is thinking about returning to her native Scotland to continue her studies in graduate school. She plans to be there for nine months.

Student association achieves 100 per cent membership

By TREVOR OBEE
Staff Writer

The Ontario Community Colleges' Student Parliamentary Association (OCCSPA) recently celebrated an historic moment in its history.

Finally, all 23 community colleges were sitting at the conference table.

With the recent addition of St. Lawrence College from Brockville, Ont., OCCSPA now has 100 per cent membership for the first time in its 15-year history.

The student-run lobby organization has always had membership problems, with reasons for non-membership ranging from larger colleges wanting more voting power, to various student councils' refusals to pay OCCSPA's membership fees. At its highest level, OCCSPA's past membership has always hovered around the 80 per cent mark.

Niagara College's Student Administrative Council renewed its commitment with OCCSPA at the beginning of this year, the first time in about three years.

'It [100 per cent membership] is something we've tried to accomplish for some time.
OCCSPA President Wayne Phillips

"This is one of the most important events in our history," said OCCSPA President Wayne Phillips, a student from Georgian College in Barrie. "It [100 per cent membership] is something we've tried to accomplish for some time."

The moment was marked by a brief round of applause at the beginning of a workshop March 18 to 20 at OCCSPA's head office at 790 Bay St. in downtown Toronto, where St. Lawrence was welcomed to its first round of talks with the association.

The workshop was held to make final preparations for OCCSPA's Changeover Conference at the beginning of May, where leaders for the next year are elected and an agenda for the year is set.

OCCSPA represents the interests of Ontario college students on almost every educational board and committee in the provincial government.

Obee is the Niagara College delegate for OCCSPA.

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SAC...WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU!?

Tuition

Continued from page 1

further reductions beyond those previously announced in 1993-94, Laughren said in a recent press release.

Colleges have been allocated about $801 million in 1994-95 transfer payments.

In his press release, Cooke said OSAP would cover the increase in tuition. The OSAP loan forgiveness level will be raised to $6,000 from $5,570, he said.

He said he will pursue an income-contingent loan repayment program with the federal government. "I've asked the federal minister responsible for Human Resources to work with Ontario to develop a system whereby graduates pay back student loans based on their income once they're in the workforce," said Cooke's statement. "I hope that the federal government will respond in a positive way to this request."

Wayne Phillips, president of the Ontario Community College Student Parliamentary Association (OCCSPA), finds such extra-ordinary increases "unacc :ptable in a time of close to zero inflation," he said in a press release.

The student association is a bilingual student-run organization representing all 23 community colleges in Ontario.

The association had repositioned itself in September, requesting to be at the table to ensure that any increase is allocated to student support services.

"To a degree, the minister listened to the recommendations outlined in our tuition proposal submitted to his office last September," said Phillips in a press release. "In our tuition proposal, our associaiion requested a central process for deciding tuition increases and direct student involvement in the allocation of funds at college level in order to ensure adequate services are being provided to students."

"I would like to point out that, because of the social contract, this tuition increase will go directly to programs, and not increasing salaries," added Cooke's statement. "I want to emphasize that colleges must change the way they work. They must continue to restructure and find more efficient ways to operate. All those affected, especially students, should be involved in this process."

Cooke said he will implement a new ancillary fee policy.

Ancillary fees are charges for instructional materials, student activity fees and athletic fees.

He said he was responding to students who feel excluded from the fee-setting process.

"We've decided not to allow increases in the compulsory, non-tuition ancillary fees until an agreement is developed by each institution with its students," said the minister, adding he understands students are concerned with tuition increases in times of economic strain.

In his press release, Cooke assured graduates of colleges or universities that they are more likely to earn higher incomes because of their diplomas.

"At these levels, Ontario students will continue to have tuition fees that are among the lowest in the country," he said.

College VCR thefts 'affects us all'

By HEATHER D. HODGSON
CRIME HIGHLIGHTS

A VCR was stolen from the MacKenzie Building. Some time between 4:30 p.m. Monday, March 21 and 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 23 someone entered M6 and removed the Panasonic VCR model AG2200 from the audio-visual stand. The VCR is black and has a label that reads "Niagara College VCR40". The television, cable and stand were left behind.

This theft affects all of us. Audio-visual equipment is in high demand. Teachers and students want the most effective presentations for their classes. Audio-visual aids are an important part of course presentations. There is a sign-out system for staff members to share equipment. Before this theft, there were occasions when it was not possible to arrange for a VCR because they are in such high demand. Now, with the third theft of this kind since September 1993, there is going to be an even greater shortage of equipment.

To replace this $450 unit, monies would have to be diverted from already exhausted budgets. There are priorities for replacement and repairs of other equipment. It is unlikely that this year's budget will cover the cost of replacing this equipment. Therefore, we will all suffer for this selfish act.

Like the theft of computer equipment reported in the March 25 article, this theft is not uncommon. Like the apathy that permits them to occur, vandalism (mischief) and theft have become a part of every day life. Have YOU ever considered why education costs are so high? A contributing factor to any cost, whether it is a purchase from a store or your tuition, is the shortage caused by individuals who put their wants above those of everybody else.

By condoning acts of this kind, we are all responsible for the outcome. YOU can do something. If you have any information on this theft or any other incident, drop your anonymous tip in the Crime Stoppers box located in the Learning Resource Centres. Then watch this column for further details. You may be eligible for a reward.

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If you have any questions or concerns regarding safety or crime prevention issues, put them in the Crime Stoppers box as well. This column is for Crime Highlights as well as crime prevention and safety issues.

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- In 1995, we'll be introducing a new award for the best television, film, or radio production dealing with AIDS as its subject.

Remember, send your submissions before April 29, 1994. For more information on how to enter TVOntario's *Telefest '94*, contact your radio, television, film, communications, or media instructor.

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